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ARAB TIMES

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DAY, MARCH 4, 1990/SHA'ABAN 7, 1410 AH

20 PAGES 150 FILS

Iraq withdraws from Gulf Cup

Arab Times report
D. March 3: A senior Iraqi delegation, official told the Arab League, Iraq had decided to withdraw from the 10th Arab Gulf Cup football tournament, currently being held at Doha, Qatar.

The official added that this decision was taken last night at a meeting chaired by Karim Al Mulla, who led the Iraqi delegation to the tournament but flew back to Baghdad yesterday.

Iraq, who went to the top of the standings today after their 2-2 draw with World Cup finalists United Arab Emirates, did not give any reason for withdrawing from the tournament.

This is the second time that Iraq has withdrawn from the Gulf tournament, the last time being in 1982 in Abu Dhabi, when they decided not to play in the final against Kuwait resulting in the latter becoming the champions. Iraq started taking part in the tournament from 1976.

Iraq played most of today's match with 10 men after Adnan Derjal, a Mexico World Cup veteran, was sent off by the referee.

Besides Iraq, the other country to have withdrawn from the Gulf tournament is Bahrain, in 1972, when the event was being hosted by Saudi Arabia.

Israel agrees to talk

Shamir accepts US formula for dialogue with Palestinians

UPIED JERUSALEM, March 3, (Agencies): Hardline Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir has accepted a US compromise formula that would pave the way for preliminary peace talks between Palestinian and Israeli delegations, Israeli television reported today.

Shamir met with cabinet ministers of his right-wing Likud bloc at his home in Jerusalem today to win backing for the plan proposed by US Secretary of State George Bush, the report said.

The US proposal demands a commitment from Shamir to accept the US formula for the establishment of a Palestinian state in the occupied territories, the report said.

Shamir would be able to reject the US formula, the report said.

Shamir has accepted this general proposal, the report said.

In addition to the formula, the report said, "among the Palestinian representatives will be deportees from the territories who have been living in a place of work in Israel," the report said.

Shamir does not expect a public answer from Israel on the second round of talks, but would be satisfied that there is an understanding on the part of both sides, the report said.

Shamir's representatives and representatives of the Israeli-occupied Arab East have been the main sticking points in efforts to reach the preliminary peace talks.

Hardliners have staunchly opposed the participation of the Arab East and East Jerusalem in the Palestinian delegation, saying this would allow the PLO to enter talks through the back door.

East Jerusalem has been one of the issues delaying talks on Shamir's proposal for Arab elections in occupied territories.

Israel captured East Jerusalem, now home to 140,000 Palestinians, along with the West Bank and Gaza in the 1967 war and declared an undivided Jerusalem its capital.

The television said Shamir and his top three ministers, including Foreign Minister Moshe Arens and Labour Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin were due to meet tomorrow.

The formula clears the way for Israel to accept talks in Cairo without having to confront the PLO demand that Palestinians who live in Israeli-annexed East Jerusalem be included in the talks.

Big 3 back Opec policy

Full agreement on prices and output

KUWAIT, March 3, (Agencies): The oil ministers of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Iraq said today they agreed completely on supporting Opec prices and output policies, the Kuwaiti news agency Kuna reported.

But the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries' "big three" made no mention of the price they want the group to adopt when its 13 oil ministers meet in Vienna on March 16.

"The talks resulted in a complete agreement concerning the need to support the resolutions adopted by Opec and to work to maintain stability in the oil market in the interest of all oil producing countries," Kuna said.

Sources close to the meeting said the three ministers Sheikh Ali Al Khalifa of Kuwait, Hisham Al Nazer of Saudi Arabia and Iraq's Saddam Al Chalibi, were in "full agreement" about the need to support Opec's resolutions.

They also agreed to work to stabilise the international oil market in the interests of all oil producers, the sources said.

Officials and oil industry sources told Reuters earlier today that Saudi Arabia, the world's largest oil exporter, was siding with Iraq in seeking higher oil prices.

They said both countries appeared to favour a new range of about \$20 a barrel, two dollars higher than the level Opec pledged to defend at its last November meeting when it set an overall output ceiling of 22.086 million.

Sheikh Ali Khalifa Al Sabah last month acknowledged that his country was overproducing to prevent prices from rising above Opec's reference price of \$18 a barrel.

He is a strong proponent of a freeze of up to four years on the present price range to maintain strong demand.

Grenade explodes near Cory's palace: troops warned

MANILA, March 3, (Agencies): A 15-year-old youth was injured when a grenade exploded today in a parked car a few hundred metres (yards) from President Corason Aquino's palace, police said.

They said they were still investigating the incident which came following rumours of a fresh coup by army rebels to overthrow Aquino.

The Philippine military has been on alert since the arrest on Tuesday of opposition Senator Juan Ponce Enrile on charges of rebellion and murder for allegedly backing the bloody December coup attempt.

Police, who have defused three bombs in the past two weeks in Manila's financial district, said they did not know who was responsible for the grenade blast.

In another development, Defence Secretary Fidel Ramos warned government troops today against joining a mutinous northern governor who has taken over a town hall and has vowed to resist efforts to arrest him on rebellion charges.

Ramos said the government was trying to persuade Governor Rodolfo Aguinaldo of Cagayan province, 220 miles (355 km) north of Manila, to surrender but was ready to use force to arrest the fugitive official.

Aguinaldo, a former constabulary colonel and anti-guerrilla warfare expert, faces charges of rebellion and murder in Manila in the December coup attempt.

Officials said Aguinaldo fled the Cagayan capital of Tuguegarao on Tuesday, hours before an arrest warrant was to be served, and has holed up in the logging town of Gattaran with his private army of hill tribesmen and communist rebel returnees.

Beirut Sunni cleric shot

BEIRUT, March 3, (Reuters): A gunman seriously wounded a senior Sunni Muslim cleric in Syrian-occupied West Beirut yesterday, security sources said.

They said the man fired a pistol at Sheikh Yahya Al Barazi as he passed in a street in the Hamra district.

The sources said Barazi, in his 40s, was hit by several bullets and rushed to the nearby American University Hospital. Barazi is still under intensive care.

The unidentified gunman left no sign of a motive for the attack on Barazi who heads a group of Sunni Muslim religious scholars.

Smugglers killed

NICOSIA, March 3, (AP): Iranian security forces killed an unidentified number of drug smugglers today in a 32-hour battle in which helicopter gunships were called in to strike the heavily armed traffickers in Kerman province, Tehran Radio reported.

The broadcast, monitored by Nicosia, said another 10 drug smugglers were killed in a nationwide, week-long sweep across the country.

Smiling babies

LONDON, March 3, (KUNA): Babies who receive stimulation in the womb can be born smiling and are likely to be in the top one per cent in any developmental index, anecdotal evidence suggests.

This evidence is to be put to the test in a two-year study to be carried out at Queen's University in Belfast, it was reported today.

Weather

FAIR weather with temperature around normal and light to moderate westerly wind.
State of sea: Slight to moderate
High water: 5.00 am, 4.00 pm
Low water: 11.00 am, 11.00 pm
Sunrise: 6.10 am
Sunset: 5.49 pm
Maximum temperatures recorded:
Kuwait: 23°C 73°F
Ahmad: 21°C 70°F
Falkland: 23°C 73°F
Minimum temperatures recorded:
Kuwait: 10°C 50°F
Ahmad: 13°C 55°F
Falkland: 12°C 54°F
Maximum temperatures expected:
Kuwait: 24°C 75°F
Ahmad: 22°C 72°F
Falkland: 24°C 75°F
Maximum humidity recorded:
Kuwait: 54 per cent
Ahmad: 49 per cent
Falkland: 54 per cent



Referee escorted
The referee and linesmen of the Iraq-UAE match being escorted out of the field by securitymen after the game.

Kashmiris defy curfew orders

US deplors loss of life

SRINAGAR, India, March 3, (AP): Paramilitary troops shot and killed one man today as small groups of Muslims defied curfew orders continuing their protest against the Indian rule in the valley's largest demonstration against Indian rule, witnesses said.

Headlines of paramilitary police and border guards were rushed back to Kashmir after at least 60 people were shot to death on Thursday by army and paramilitary troops, police and airport sources said. The killings occurred as an estimated 1 million Muslim demonstrators converged on Srinagar to press demands for independence from India, according to estimates from witnesses.

Shinagar's streets were deserted today except for government patrols and a few small groups of curfew violators. The curfew has been in effect since 4 am Friday (2230 GMT Thursday). As in previous curfews in the Kashmir valley, the troops had orders to shoot curfew violators on sight, Indian news media reported.

Paramilitary police shot and killed a Muslim man today in the old downtown area of Srinagar, centre of the militant movement, when 20 to 30 people came out of their homes in defiance of the curfew, witnesses said.

The US State Department said yesterday it had appealed to the Indian government to prevent the use of excessive force against the protesters.

"We deplore the loss of life in Kashmir. We are disturbed at the rising number of casualties," State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler said in Washington.

Nine planes carrying paramilitary police and border guards landed at Srinagar airport last night and this morning and more were expected, the sources said.

A leader in Pakistan-held Kashmir warned India today that Kashmiris will invade its troubled state of Jammu-Kashmir, where at least 163 people have died.

Sultan Mahmood, president of Azad Muslim Conference, said demonstrators will march to the Pakistani border town of Chakhoti on March 9 but "this is only a warning, a dress rehearsal," he said.

"We are going to cross the ceasefire line very soon, in a matter of weeks," he told a news conference.

"We can no longer allow India to torture young Kashmiris, to allow Indian troops to kill hundreds of Kashmiris in one day," he said.

Calling Pakistan-held Kashmir "a base camp of Kashmir," Mahmood said: "Not only do we intend to attack them (India), we should also prepare ourselves defensively. We are in a sort of war situation."

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Maximum temperatures recorded:
Kuwait: 23°C 73°F
Ahmad: 21°C 70°F
Falkland: 23°C 73°F
Minimum temperatures recorded:
Kuwait: 10°C 50°F
Ahmad: 13°C 55°F
Falkland: 12°C 54°F
Maximum temperatures expected:
Kuwait: 24°C 75°F
Ahmad: 22°C 72°F
Falkland: 24°C 75°F
Maximum humidity recorded:
Kuwait: 54 per cent
Ahmad: 49 per cent
Falkland: 54 per cent

ARAB TIMES

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Details inside page

Tamil 'independence a big joke'

COLOMBO, March 3. (Agencies): The Sri Lankan government brushed aside today as a "big joke" the unilateral declaration of independence (UDI) by the north-east provincial council Chief Minister, Varatharaj Perumal.

The island's Foreign Minister, Ranjan Wijeratne, when asked to comment on Perumal's UDI made said it is "nothing but a big joke."

All opposition political parties yesterday reacted with a firm "no" to the UDI. Parties that reacted negatively to the

UDI are the Sri Lanka Freedom Party, the Communist Party, the Lanka Sama Samajaparty, the Mahajana Eksath Peramuna and the Nava Sama Samaja Party.

Sri Lanka's leading trade unions, too, condemned the UDI and expressed surprise at the move made by Perumal.

The Indian high commission (embassy) in Sri Lanka said yesterday in a communiqué the Indian government does not in any way recognise the "Eelam" call. (Eelam is the name by which the north-east

of the island is called by the separatist Tamil militants).

But Perumal affirmed that he stands by his decision to form an independent Tamil nation, said the Colombo-appointed governor of the north-east province, Major General Nalin Seneviratne today.

Seneviratne reported the Tamil position after a 30 minute discussion with Perumal in the north-eastern port district town of Trincomalee.

"Mr Perumal stands by his resolutions and the 19 demands (for autonomy) placed

before the Sri Lankan government," he said. "I will be studying the statement made by Mr Perumal and the implications of the resolution moved declaring the democratic republic of Eelam. I will be informing the government about my opinion on it after studying these proposals carefully ... especially as it violates the six amendment to the constitution."

The government agent in Trincomalee (the principal government official) K.B. Wijekoon said the administration in the district is not affected at all.

Indians reaffirm desire for change

By Thomas Abraham

Arab Times correspondent

NEW DELHI, March 3: Once again, people in many parts of India, mainly the Hindi heartland, have reaffirmed their desire for a change. That is the clear message that emerged from the results of this week's assembly elections in eight states and one union territory.

The Congress, which was thrown out of power at the centre in the general elections last November, has now been ousted in all but two of the states which went to the polls this time. Like November, the defeat of the Congress has been decisive, with the voters apparently not making any distinction between the Lok Sabha and the state assemblies.

For the Congress, its performance in Maharashtra has been the only saving grace. It won 142 of the 288 seats, just short of an absolute majority. But then it has been able to muster the support of ten independents and Sharad Pawar has earned yet another term as chief minister.

In Bihar, the poll process is likely to continue till mid-March. With the unprecedented violence

and incidents of booth-capturing during the elections, repoll has been ordered in nearly 1,200 booths. All the same, results available so far indicate that the next government could be formed by a coalition led by the Janata Dal.

So far, 207 of the assembly's 324 races had been decided. The Congress Party won 43, the National Front 83, the Bharatiya Janata Party 22 and the others shared by smaller parties and independents.

But it is in the states where the people have given a clear verdict in their favour that the Janata Dal and the BJP are facing some headaches, mainly related to the ministry-making process. But these problems are slowly being ironed out.

In Gujarat, the BJP had initially objected to supporting Janata Dal leader Chimanbhai Patel as chief minister in view of the charges of corruption that he attracted during his previous tenure in the early seventies. The Dal, with 70 seats in the 182-member assembly, needed the backing of the BJP to form the government there.

Bush allays Kaifu fears on security

US troops cut in Asia discussed

RANCHO MIRAGE, California, March 3. (AP): US President George Bush, opening a two-day desert summit, has assured Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu that a reduction of US troops in Asia will not undermine stability or security there, an official said.

The two leaders avoided discussing Japan's huge trade surplus yesterday and the growing trade tensions between the world's largest economic powers, leaving those subjects for their meetings today.

"Welcome, sir," a smiling Bush said as he shook hands with Kaifu across a conference table at a posh country club.

Despite the economic conflicts, Bush emphasised the positive in his opening remarks, noting, "there are so many areas of common interest where we have such a strong relationship with Japan."

Kaifu's quick response to his invitation for the hastily arranged meeting was an "important display of your feelings about our relationship," Bush said.

"Certainly my inviting you here is a strong indication from us about the importance of this relationship," Bush said.

The two leaders met for an hour before gathering again for dinner at the heavily guarded estate of millionaire publisher Walter Annenberg.

Emerging from a one-on-one meeting, Bush said: "We had a very good discussion."

There was no sign of friction, although White House Press Secretary Marlin Fitzwater said earlier that Bush would warn the prime minister that Congress was in "very tough mood" in insisting that Japan lower barriers to US goods and services.

In a statement after the initial Bush-Kaifu meeting, Fitzwater said the opening session was devoted to security issues.

The United States is considering reducing its 120,000 troops in Asia by about 10 per cent. That would mean a reduction of 5,000 troops in Japan.

In addition, Washington is pressing Tokyo for a sizeable increase in Japan's \$2.4 billion annual contribution toward the cost of keeping US troops stationed in the country.

Bush told Kaifu that the changes in the US defence posture will not affect either deterrence or stability, nor its commitment to its Asian allies," Fitzwater said.

Referring to US hopes that Japan will increase defence spending, Fitzwater said: "The two leaders discussed the issue of burden sharing, noting the need for suitable arrangements for balanced cost-sharing."

Fitzwater said Kaifu "stressed the importance to co-ordinate our policies and tackle the issues

from the standpoint of mutual co-operation."

Shigeo Takenaka, deputy spokesman for the Japanese Foreign Ministry, said that to solve the difficult trade issues, "we must continue to strengthen co-operation in other areas," such as aid to Latin America and the emerging democracies in Eastern Europe.

"We certainly didn't sense any ambush here," he said when asked whether the Americans were coming down hard on Tokyo over trade.

Bush and Kaifu both arrived in Palm Springs from nearby Los Angeles yesterday within minutes of each other and rode in from the airport together in the President's armoured limousine.

During the 25-minute ride, Bush congratulated Kaifu on his election victory last month and "emphasised the importance of our security relationship," Fitzwater said.

Tibet govt braces for renewed violence

BEIJING, March 3. (UPI): After a tense but relatively peaceful year of martial law, authorities in riot-scarred Tibet are bracing for renewed unrest as key anniversaries approach of the Tibetans' violent challenges to communist Chinese rule.

Since March 1989, when riots led to the imposition of martial law in the capital city, Lhasa, and its environs, Tibet has been free of the major violence that had erupted repeatedly over the previous 18 months.

But demonstrations led by Tibetan Buddhist monks demanding independence from Beijing have continued in Lhasa in other cities in the mountainous Himalayan region according to reports in the official press and from travelers and foreign residents.

Just over a dozen foreign residents remain in Tibet, including staff at the Holiday Inn in Lhasa, diplomats at Nepal's consulate and several teachers. Only a handful of tourists have been permitted into the region at any one time since last year.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Ritual killings

KUALA LUMPUR, March 3. (AP): Police in the east Malaysian district of Kudat are holding members of a Christian sect suspected in the ritual killing of a woman and her brother-in-law, it was reported today.

Police believe about 50 other members of the Philippines-based Missionary Association have gone into hiding since the Feb 23 discovery of the corpses of Sabina Ongkili, 30, and her brother-in-law Alvinus Ewah, 24.

Bus crash kills 20

HONG KONG, March 3. (AP): A Hong Kong truck collided with a passenger bus in Guangdong province of southern China, leaving 20 people dead and 17 injured, media reports reported today.

The head-on collision occurred early Friday in Nanchang county near the provincial capital of Canton. The official China News Service reported that the bus driver and 19 passengers died. The condition of the injured was not immediately known.

Recruit scandal

TOKYO, March 3. (AP): A member of Japan's new cabinet has acknowledged receiving money from the company at the centre of an influence-buying scandal, major newspapers reported today.

Labour Minister Shunpei Tanaka told Japanese reporters yesterday that the Recruit Co. bought 6.3 million yen (\$42,000) worth of tickets to his fundraising parties in 1984-85, the Asahi Shimbun and Yomiuri Shimbun newspapers reported.

Rushdie protest

BANGKOK, March 3. (Reuters): Some 200 Muslims burned an effigy of British writer Salman Rushdie in southern Thailand to protest against the translation into Japanese of his book "The Satanic Verses", the Bangkok Post said today.

The protesters also set fire to flags of the United States, Britain, Japan and Israel in front of the main mosque in Yala, a mainly Muslim town some 800km (500 miles) south of Bangkok, during yesterday's protest, the newspaper said.

Cambodia fighting

BANGKOK, March 3. (Reuters): Guerrillas were locked in heavy fighting with Vietnam-supported government troops at Phnom Penh fought to seize the Khmer Rouge's main Cambodian base in the west of the country, guerrilla radio broadcasts said today.

At least 3,000 Vietnamese troops had joined in the fighting near the rocky-mining town of Pailin, some 300 km (180 miles) west of Phnom Penh, a Khmer Rouge radio broadcast said.

Indian road deaths soar

NEW DELHI, March 3. (UPI): About 45,000 people die each year in road accidents throughout India, marking a 200 per cent increase in fatalities since 1975, the Press Trust of India news agency reported.

The fatalities coincide with a dramatic increase in the number of trucks, cars and other vehicles on the nation's highways, the Press Trust said.

The news agency quoted Prakash Narain, chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board, as saying that the number of vehicles had increased from 2.5 million in 1975 to 12 million in 1988 — an increase of about 500 per cent.



South Korean army officers inspect newly found North Korean tunnel which Seoul says is aimed at launching a surprise attack on the South. (Reuters wirephoto)

Seoul discovers 'invasion' tunnel

SEOUL, March 3. (Reuters): South Korea accused North Korea today of building a tunnel through which it could launch a surprise invasion of 30,000 soldiers and scores of armoured vehicles.

The tunnel, discovered 145 metres (yards) underground and 1.2 km (about three quarters of a mile) into South Korean territory, was probably one of about 20 built by North Korea across the border, Defence Minister Lee Sang-Hoon said.

"The construction of such an invasion tunnel into our area across the truce line is a serious violation of the armistice agreement and an intolerable act of aggression," Lee told a news conference.

Lee, who appeared flanked by US and South Korean generals, said: "The 20-odd suspect tunnels will readily provide the secret routes for infiltrating large troops into our rear area at the initial stage of war."

A senior South Korean army officer said there was a great risk that North Korea could be tempted to invade unless all the tunnels were unearthed.

The two countries are still technically at war since a truce

ended the three-year Korean war in 1953, and the United States keeps more than 43,000 troops in South Korea.

An army intelligence officer in Seoul said the scale of the tunnel, the fourth discovered from the North since 1974, meant it was capable of ferrying about 30,000 infantry troops and many armoured vehicles into South Korea within an hour in a surprise attack.

Foreign and local journalists today witnessed US and South Korean troops entering the tunnel about 26 km (16 miles) north-east of the South Korean town of Yangju.

"This tunnel has verified that North Korea has drilled a number of invasion tunnels along the whole sector of the Korean border," South Korean Brigadier General Park Yong-Ik said at the scene.

"Unless we find all of them, there's a high probability that North Korea would try to strike," Park said.

South Korea has accused the North of massing troops near the border and of putting finishing touches to plans for a surprise attack on its capital, Seoul.

Airbus A320 cleared

PARIS, March 3. (AP): France's Civil Aviation Authority has ruled the Airbus A320 jetliner fundamentally safe despite an accident last month in Bangalore, India that killed 90 people, a spokeswoman for the authority said yesterday.

The Direction Generale de l'Aviation Civile (DGAC) sent its judgment in a message this week to other countries operating the short-to-medium range plane, the spokeswoman confirmed on condition of anonymity.

The President of Aerospatiale SA, one of the four European aircraft manufacturers comprising the consortium Airbus Industrie, defended the A320 in a press conference in Toulouse.

"The fact that the certification of the Airbus A320 wasn't withdrawn after the Bangalore accident makes us think that the plane isn't at fault," said Henri Martin at Aerospatiale's headquarters.

Aviation industry sources said the note stated information given French investigators concerning the accident proved the airworthiness of the aircraft as certified by DGAC.

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Cassette Player (WQ T221Z)

PEOPLE AND PLACES

PITTSBURGH, Pennsylvania: Twenty-eight city employees have stopped taking workers' compensation since officials announced a plan to crack down on fraudulent injury claims by catching cheaters on videotape.

The employees began returning to work last week, city finance director Ben Haylar said Tuesday.

Haylar said last week that the city is watching and taping some employees who claimed their injuries left them unable to work. Some were seen roofing their homes and doing strenuous yard work, Haylar said.

Most employees who are hurt on the job return to work as soon as possible, but 10 to 15 per cent of the city's \$17 million annual workers' compensation expense results from fraud and abuse, Haylar said. About 300 employees remain on workers' compensation, he said. (AP)

NEW YORK: Dustin Hoffman's new lead role is real-life drama: He is helping a terminally ill student who needs a bone marrow donor.

The Academy Award-winning actor has made a six-figure donation and a plea for Allison Atlas, who learned in August she had three to six months to live unless a marrow transplant checked her leukaemia.

"If we find a donor, we'd literally be taking someone off death row," said Hoffman, winner of Academy Awards for best actor in last year's *Rain Man* and the 1979 *Kramer vs. Kramer*.

Hoffman on Tuesday said something about Miss Atlas, a 20-year-old business major at New York University and a resident of Bethesda, Maryland, got him involved.

"It's hard to explain. I picked me," he said.

The Atlas family made a public plea in November. Since then, more than 16,000 people offered to be donors. Because of the family's efforts, 75 to 90 potential donors were found for other people in her situation.

"It's just a matter of getting the right person to come to one of our drives," said Miss Atlas, one of 9,000 people awaiting a donor.

Of Hoffman's support, she said: "I don't know if it's fate or what. It's my only hope." (AP)

PHILADELPHIA, Pennsylvania: The city council unanimously repealed a decision to study the idea of distributing free cocaine and other narcotics to drug users in treatment.

The repeal Wednesday night followed nearly a week of criticism from law enforcement officials and politicians, including Mayor W. Wilson Goode, who called the study a waste of time. District attorney Ronald Castille said a free-distribution programme would violate state and federal laws.

Councilman John Street had proposed the study, saying he believed the city was "totally losing the war" against drugs.

Last week, without discussion, the council approved street's request for studies of the legal and medical implications of treating



Tina 'The Best'

US singer Tina Turner singing 'The Best' at the 40th Italian San Remo song festival. Tina Turner and several other foreign singers made special guest appearances. (Reuter wirephoto)

various drug addicts with a system similar to methadone clinics for heroin addicts.

After a storm of criticism, two councilmen circulated resolutions to kill the study before street offered his own, which passed unanimously. (AP)

LOS ANGELES: The Walt Disney Company has threatened legal action against the source of a fake news release that claimed Michael Jackson had signed a five-year movie deal with Disney.

Disney said it began an investigation to find the author of the release, used as the basis for a story in the *Hollywood Reporter*. Among other things, the story said Jackson was negotiating to leave CBS Records for Disney's New Hollywood Records and could design theme park rides for Disney.

"We fully intend to take action against the person or persons responsible," Walt Disney studios chairman Jeffrey Katzenberg said.

"This company has a reputation for protecting its name and taking legal action when necessary." The paper ran a front-page article

Wednesday saying it had been the victim of a hoax.

Jackson stars at Disneyland in the movie *Captain Jack*, which opened in 1986. (AP)

FORT WORTH, Texas: An elementary school principal and her assistant sat all day on the roof to pay off a bet. Pupils were delighted but the head custodian was not very pleased.

"They called for blankets, legal pads, and their hats kept blowing off and I had to take them back up," custodian Elizabeth Sheffield said of Monday's stunt.

Principal Janet Wyma agreed to spend the day on the roof if the 350 pupils at Jackie Carlen Elementary School read 7,000 books in six weeks. They finished in two weeks.

Her assistant Martha Miholovich then agreed to join her on the roof if the students read another 2,000 books. The children surpassed their goal by 75 books within another two weeks.

The two administrators passed the time sunbathing, listening to the radio, snacking — and reading books. (AP)

Smokers puff away sense of smell

PHILADELPHIA, March 3, (AP): A smoker's sense of smell roodles with every passing puff, according to researchers at the University of Pennsylvania who conducted scratch and sniff tests.

"The majority still have a sense of smell, but not as acute as if they weren't smoking," said Richard Doty, director of the University's Smell and Taste Centre.

Both current and former smokers lose their ability to smell all kinds of odours in proportion to the amount of cigarettes and length of time they had smoked, the researchers reported yesterday in the journal of the American Medical Association.

The researchers used the scratch and

sniff tests to evaluate the ability of 638 volunteers to smell 40 different odours. Of the subjects, 262 had never smoked, 197 were ex-smokers and 179 were current smokers. In addition, 14 people said they also smoked cigars or pipes.

"A person who smoked two packs of cigarettes a day for 10 years has less of an ability to smell, on average, than someone who had smoked two packs of cigarettes for five years," said the report's lead author, former research associate Richard Frye. Frye is now a graduate student at Drexel University.

Current smokers are nearly twice as likely to show a loss of smell than those

who never smoked, according to the researchers.

A medical psychologist studying the effects of smoking and nicotine called the study's results "very intriguing."

"It could help explain why a lot of the old studies connected a loss in the sense of taste to smoking," said Neil Grunberg of the uniformed services University of the Health Sciences, in Bethesda, Maryland. Grunberg pointed out that the sense of taste is linked to the sense of smell, and the study could shed light on what component of cigarettes affects both senses.

The loss appears to be reversible, Doty said, but two-pack-a-day smokers would

have to quit for as many years as they smoked to regain the essential sense, he said.

"Smell is our primary sense for detecting such environmental dangers as leaking natural gas, spoiled food and smoke," Doty said. "In addition, it may be of diagnostic value for the early detection of a number of neurological disorders, including Alzheimer's disease and Parkinsonism," in which the diseases' victims lose some of their sense of smell.

Doty said that the cause of the smell loss was not known, but he believed that a chemical in the tobacco smoke may kill nasal cells.

Scientists prolong fruit fly lifespan

BASEL, Switzerland, March 3, (AP): After years of painstaking research, a team of scientists at Basel University has succeeded in extending the active life of an insect by genetic engineering.

The cell biologists have managed to prolong the lifespan of the drosophila melanogaster, or fruit fly, by up to 40 per cent through injections of a protein that successfully stems the aging process.

But Walter Gehring, the team leader, says the experiments are unlikely to lead to the existence of an "eternal fly" as other, non-genetic factors also determine the creature's lifecycle.

"There is an ancient fear that scientists are going to create a genetic monster," he said in an interview in his cramped, book-lined office. "There is no such thing," he said.

Critics of genetic engineering argue that in manipulating nature, scientists are trying to assume a God-like function.

Gehring disagrees, saying that man has used biological knowledge to improve plant and animal breeds for thousands of years.

He says genetic engineering is a more defined and accurate extension of earlier scientific techniques and adds that continued research into the make-up and role of genes will bring huge benefits in areas such as early diagnosis of hereditary illnesses.

"The architecture of a living organism is determined by genes," Gehring told the Associated Press.

"We are interested in the composition and interaction of the complicated networks of genes. We still know very little," he said.

"The more we understand about the composition of genes, the more we can change them. The more we observe such changes, the more we learn about nature," he said.

He added that the fly project was a byproduct of this overall line of research.

Proteins are produced in cells according to a predetermined genetic code and form chains that carry out different functions in the body.

One particular protein, EF-1 Alpha, plays a crucial role. At the start of a life of a cell it is present in large quantities, which gradually decline over time.

Without EF-1 Alpha, the cells are unable to build new protein chains to replace old or damaged ones. The cell, and subsequently the complete organism, dies.

The Basel scientists injected a genetic copy of EF-1 Alpha into a fertilised egg of the fruit fly and discovered this promoted continuous reproduction of the protein.

At controlled temperatures of 25 degrees Celsius (77 Fahrenheit) flies lived an average 18 per cent longer than normal. At 29.5 degrees (85 Fahrenheit) they survived 40 per cent longer than their untreated counterparts, which had a life cycle of between 35 and 60 days.

"The beauty of the fly experiment is that we have prolonged the healthy phase of a living creature's existence, rather than just prevented old and sick organisms from dying," Gehring said.

But he added that no one yet knows why protein levels fall with the aging process.

Experts predict 'icebox effect'

Countering global warming

OSLO, Norway, March 3, (AP): Global warming and changing weather patterns may at first expand the ice mantles of the earth's polar regions rather than melt them, Norwegian scientists say.

Expanding polar ice caps could create an "icebox effect," cooling the planet and — temporarily — counteracting the so-called greenhouse effect, several researchers said in separate interviews.

The State Meteorological Institute reported this week that some Norwegian glaciers grew last year, despite an abnormally mild winter. Experts said warmer temperatures brought more snowfall, which contributed to the creation of more ice.

But the scientists said the icebox effect, if their theory were correct, would merely buy time to clean up the pollution contributing to long-term global warming and a possible rise in ocean levels.

"The ice might act as a refrigerator, at least slowing down the rise of the sea and maybe making it fall, giving us more time to develop plans for coastal regions," said Gunnar Mathisen, of the Norwegian Environment Ministry.

A United Nations environment report to be released in June will consider the effects of expanding ice, said Mathisen, whose book on the greenhouse effect

"Hot Future," was published this month.

Many scientists believe pollution, especially carbon dioxide and other gases released by burning fossil fuels, traps the sun's heat in the atmosphere, gradually raising the earth's average temperature and changing weather patterns.

Some reports predict rising temperatures would be more pronounced in the polar regions and could melt so much ice that ocean levels would rise up to 1.4 metres (4.5 feet) by the year 2030, flooding some coastal regions.

Olav Saetersdal, head of the Norwegian Environment Ministry climate team, said estimates of the temperature increase during the next 40 years have been reduced from 4.5 degrees Centigrade (8.1 F) maximum predicted in 1987 to about 2.5 degrees (4.5 F).

"That is if we continue business as usual and don't reduce carbon dioxide levels," he said.

Warmer temperatures could bring about increased snowfall over the poles, thickening the ice pack as ice formed faster than it melted, researchers said.

"Thicker ice could be a part of a larger climatic picture, with more precipitation far north and south and much less in the temperate zones, such as in parts of the United States and the Soviet Union," Saetersdal said.



Security breach

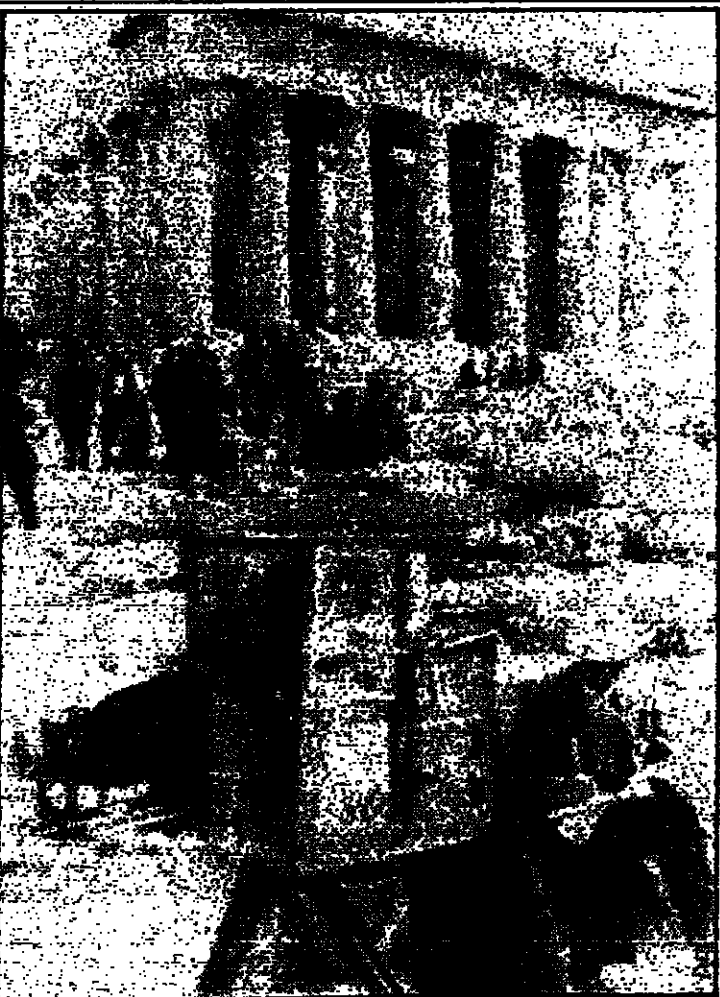
The second of two suspects arrested inside President George Bush's secure area at San Francisco international airport awaits transport to jail. The suspects had to be forcibly stopped by shotgun blasts fired by California highway patrolmen. (Reuter wirephoto)

Panel criticises tobacco ads

WASHINGTON, March 3, (UPI): Efforts to reduce cigarette advertising targeted at young people and minorities should be expanded to include beer and other alcoholic beverages, consumer groups have told Congress.

In his panel's ninth hearing in three years on cigarette advertising, Rep. Thomas Luken, D-Ohio, chairman of a house subcommittee on hazardous materials, criticised tobacco firms for "zeroing in on women, blacks, youth and Hispanics."

"Even though we prohibit other advertisers from false advertising, we have immunized the tobacco industry," Luken said. "We allow cigarette companies to mock the law, circumvent and destroy its effectiveness."



Oldest camera

Tourist photographer known as Mr George solves a crossword puzzle on a quiet day on March 1 in front of the Parthenon. Mr George has been taking pictures of visitors to the Acropolis for the past 40 years with his 120-year-old black and white camera, probably the oldest functioning camera in Greece. (Reuter wirephoto)

Compound to protect skin found

MIAMI, March 3, (UPI): Scientists have found a compound they believe could be added to cosmetics to reflect some of the damaging heat of infrared rays away from the skin, officials said.

Dr. Oscar Hevia and Paul Weber of the University of Miami School of Medicine said they developed the "IR reflector," which reflects away from the skin about 20 per cent of the sun's infrared light rays.

Evidence suggests infrared rays combined with ultraviolet light can promote more skin damage than exposure to ultraviolet alone. Chronic exposure to infrared light, such as sitting in front of a hot fire, has been shown to promote structural skin changes, they said.

Using the IR reflector "would mean you'd feel cooler in the sun," said Hevia, a dermatologist. That could be useful among the elderly to prevent heat stroke, and helpful to anyone else spending time outdoors, such as athletes and sunbathers.

"The product has a nice sheen to it, so it's cosmetically appealing," he said.

An IR reflector differs from a sunscreen, which chemically absorbs ultraviolet rays, Hevia said.

"If you absorb infrared rays, heat is produced, and heat is the problem in the first place," he said. "The defence against infrared must be reflection, not absorption. We needed something to put on the skin that would reflect."

Hevia and Weber said their product is "a combination of architectural window film and photovoltaic engineering... with an application to the skin."

Extra potassium, monounsaturated oil benefits discounted

BOSTON, March 3, (AP): Heart-conscious eaters who are fed up with low-fat diets can safely add some olive oil and other monounsaturated fats to their daily fare, but the extra dose probably won't reduce their cholesterol, a study concludes.

A second report has found that getting lots of potassium, another nutrient with a wholesome image, is no substitute for taking high blood pressure medicines.

Scientists have been searching for foods that prevent disease rather than cause it, and potassium and monounsaturated fats have been among the possible candidates. Two studies examining these substances were published last week in the *New England Journal of Medicine*.

Some studies have suggested that foods high in monounsaturated fat, such as olive oil, actually might lower blood cholesterol levels. However, the new work found that while monounsaturated fats don't raise cholesterol,

they don't seem to lower it significantly.

Dr. Henry N. Ginsberg and colleagues from Columbia University randomly assigned 36 healthy young men to eat specially prepared meals for 10 weeks.

One group followed the American Heart Association's "Step 1" diet. In this regimen, they limited their daily fat intake to 30 per cent of total calories. Ten per cent of the calories were from saturated fat, 10 per cent from polyunsaturated fat and 10 per cent from monounsaturated fat.

A second group followed the same diet except that 18 per cent of the daily calories were from monounsaturated fat. The third group ate a standard US diet, in which 18 per cent of calories were from saturated fat, 10 per cent polyunsaturated and 10 per cent monounsaturated.

When the study was over, blood cholesterol levels had fallen 8 per cent in those who followed the Heart Association diet and 10

per cent in those who got extra monounsaturated fat.

"I can only conclude indirectly that both of the experimental diets were about the same," Ginsberg said. "What we hoped to do here was try to straighten out some misconceptions about 'monos' that have arisen, mostly from the media and food companies, that they had some independent effect on lowering cholesterol."

He said the research suggests that people who give up saturated fat can safely replace it with monounsaturated fat. But he noted that increasing consumption of carbohydrates is less fattening.

"If you want to have more fat in your diet, you can get away with it by substituting some monounsaturates for carbohydrates, as long as you keep your saturated fat consumption low," commented Dr. Scott Grundy of the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Centre in Dallas.

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INTERNATIONAL

Gorby turning into a dictator: Yeltsin

LONDON, March 3, (Reuters): Radical Soviet politician Boris Yeltsin said yesterday that Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev showed signs of turning into a dictator and he called for a stronger parliament to curb presidential power.

Yeltsin, one of Gorbachev's fiercest critics, said in an interview with British television that the Soviet leader had become too fond of power and could not tolerate criticism.

But Yeltsin said Gorbachev could lose power within the year if his perestroika restructuring programme did not bring an improvement in Soviet living standards.

"In one year, without decisive steps, perestroika will suffocate and along with it Gorbachev because people are approaching a critical point. With no improvement it will explode like Eastern Europe," Yeltsin told Britain's Channel Four

news.

Asked if he thought Gorbachev was becoming a dictator, Yeltsin said: "Yes. He's intolerant... he loves power and cannot stand people who contradict him. He either fires them or avoids having anything to do with them."

Gorbachev has won parliament support to become the Soviet Union's first executive president with sweeping powers which enable

him to declare martial law and appoint or remove the prime minister and other officials.

Yeltsin said the power of the Soviet legislature should be strengthened accordingly "so we can limit the president's power, oust him, bring him to account."

In a later interview with the British Broadcasting authority Yeltsin said Soviet history proved that a concentration of power was a

recipe for dictatorship and he warned that if checks were not in place the president "could become a Stalin or almost."

But Yeltsin said there was a chance he might consider standing against Gorbachev for the presidency "if the conditions are right."

Yeltsin was sacked as Moscow Communist Party chief in 1987 for criticising the party leadership over the pace of reform and at the time

accused Gorbachev of trying to purge him from political life. He won a seat in elections to the new-style Soviet parliament last year.

Yeltsin added yesterday the Soviet Union could "explode" and Gorbachev lose power within a year if Soviet living standards did not begin to improve.

"Perestroika must now be directed toward the needs of man — food, service goods, housing," Yeltsin said in the interview.



Yeltsin

NEWS IN BRIEF



Kidnapped

Patrizia Tacchella, eight, kidnapped near her northern Italian home in Verona Jan 29, Verona magistrate Angela Barbaglio signed a decree to prevent the parents of Patrizia, to paying a ransom. It is the first application of a government decree approved last month banning negotiations with kidnapers and providing for a freeze on the assets of hostages' families to block payment of ransom.

Pastor warns

BUCHAREST, March 3, (Reuters): The Protestant pastor Laszlo Tokes at the centre of the uprisings in Timisoara which sparked Romania's revolution warned yesterday of a rising tide of nationalist hostility towards minorities.

Form government

BUCHAREST, March 3, (AP): Representatives of Jewish and gypsy ethnic groups were invited yesterday to join Romania's provisional government.

The ruling provisional council of national unity decided by a show of hands to absorb three members each from the Federation of Jewish Communities in Romania and the Democratic Roman (gypsy) Union, expanding its membership to 259. Nine ethnic groups had already been represented in the council, which acts like a mini-parliament until national elections scheduled for May 20 are held.

Pledges crackdown

MADRID, March 3, (Reuters): Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez pledged yesterday to crack down on government corruption and try to repair his party's damaged credibility following charges of fraud in last October's general election.

Keep guard up

STANLEY, Falkland Islands, March 3, (AP): British Defence Secretary Tom King said yesterday that Britain is treating its warning relationship with Argentina the same way it treats the changes in Eastern Europe: "We keep our guard upon."

Three injured

ALGECIRAS, Spain, March 3, (Reuters): Three people were injured yesterday in a clash between riot police and fishermen demonstrating in support of colleagues blocking two southern Spanish harbours with their boats, police said.

They said about 300 protesters tried to join forces with other fishermen blocking the harbour entrance in Algeciras with 20 trawlers.



Too big to step in

Shoemaker Noboru Ishidori displays a 1.2 metre Gulliver shoe, which required four heads worth of cow leather and two million yen (\$14,000), at a showroom of Tokyo's Otsuka Shoe Inc. yesterday. It took 90 days to make a pair with seven craftsmen. (Reuters wirephoto)

Bonn, Warsaw at odds over border

West German terms draw angry Polish response

BONN, March 3, (Reuters): Four months after West Germany and Poland agreed to put centuries of hostility behind them, they are quarrelling again about Poland's post-war borders and Nazi Germany's use of Polish slave labourers.

Bonn said yesterday it was willing to meet Poland's long-standing call for explicit recognition of its western borders in a treaty, but it laid down conditions that drew an angry response from Warsaw.

Government spokesman Dieter Vogel said such a treaty would have

Polish Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki said ambiguity in Bonn's attitude to the border was undermining relations between the two countries.

"For Poland, it is primarily a question of the border, but if Bonn wants to widen the problem, then OK — we also have something to say, for example on the question of Polish forced labourers in the Third Reich," he said on West German television.

His threat to raise the slave labour issue showed the Solidarity-led government was not prepared to accept the addition of any conditions to a formal guarantee of its borders, considered a matter of national survival.

Poland, which lost six million dead and nearly half its national wealth under the Nazi onslaught and subsequent Soviet invasion, was awarded large tracts of pre-war German territory by the victorious allies in 1945. Both German states have declared that they have no designs upon the territory handed over to compensate for the loss of a larger slice of eastern land annexed by the Soviet Union.

But Chancellor Helmut Kohl, facing an extreme right-wing challenge in December elections as he rushes towards union with East Germany, has alarmed Poland by insisting on the legally correct position that only a unified Germany can formally recognise the border.

Mazowiecki said Poles were justifiably worried by the strength of the extreme right-wing Republican Party in West Germany and displays of nationalism in East Germany.

Kohl's government is worried that massive reparations claims from countries occupied by Nazi Germany could be one of the unwelcome consequences of unification. It has refused to consider reparations payments.

The latest row represents a major setback in relations between the two old enemies, which improved when Kohl made a long-delayed visit to Poland last November.

Bonn muscles in on GDR poll

EAST BERLIN, March 3, (Reuters): From leaders to grassroots activists, West Germany's political parties are muscling in on the East German election campaign two weeks before the former Stalinist state's first free vote.

West German political heavyweights including two cabinet ministers and Social Democratic ex-chancellor Willy Brandt crossed the country today to address rallies for East German parties allied to their own.

Chancellor Helmut Kohl spoke at a mass rally of conservatives backed by his Christian Democrats in Karl-Marx-Stadt on Thursday. He is due back in East Germany next week.

Better known because of television than East Germany's own fledgling politicians, Bonn leaders are dominating the East German campaign in a way that suggests a stampede towards unification on West German terms.

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Blast hurts 16 US troops in Panama

PANAMA CITY, March 3, (AP): A bomb hurled through the window of a downtown discotheque exploded and wounded 16 US servicemen and an unknown number of Panamanians, a spokeswoman for the US southern command said today.

There was no known motive for the last night's attack, and no claim of responsibility has been made, Lt. Comdr. Peggy Black said.

"We don't know what it was," said Lt. Col. Terry Jones, another southern command spokesman. "They're investigating that it's possible it could have been a grenade."

Jones said the injuries apparently were caused by the explosion itself and by flying glass from broken windows.

The bomb was thrown about 11:30 pm (0430 GMT) at "My Place" a discotheque on Via Espana, a main thoroughfare of stores, hotels, banks and other businesses.

The judicial technical police, part of the public security force established by the new civilian government, was investigating the explosion but would give no details by telephone.

The bombing was believed to be the first attack on US servicemen in Panama since the United States overthrew the government of Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega.

to include confirmation of a Polish decision in 1953 to renounce World War Two reparations claims against Germany and guarantees of the rights of the German minority in Poland.

Saying it did not want the border problem linked with other issues, Poland threatened to seek compensation for more than a million Poles forced to work as slave labourers under the Nazis if Bonn pressed its demands for a treaty on reparations.



This young man is crying after being wounded in a clash between demonstrators and Hamburg policemen. (Reuters wirephoto)

Woerner favours top-level meeting: Nato Secretary-General Manfred Woerner said on Saturday he favoured calling a top-level alliance meeting to discuss German unity and played down Soviet insistence that a unified Germany be neutral.

Woerner spoke to reporters after talks with Czechoslovak Foreign Minister Jiri Dienstbier, only the second Warsaw Pact minister to visit Nato headquarters.

Italy and some other alliance members have proposed a special foreign ministers' meeting soon on the issue because they feel they are being sidelined in the rush to German unification.

"It might make sense... I personally think it would be a good idea," said Woerner, a former West German defence minister, answering reporters' questions. (Reuters)

Security summit called this year: Nine neutral and non-aligned European states called on Friday for a security summit this year of the 35-nation Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE) to discuss political events on the continent.

The nine nations — neutral Finland, Switzerland, San Marino, Sweden, Austria and Liechtenstein and non-aligned Yugoslavia, Cyprus and Malta — also CSCE member nations.

Ministers from the nine countries issued a joint statement at the end of a meeting in Valletta suggesting the summit could be held in Vienna and should consider the question of German unification "in the context of the CSCE framework and of the specific interests of the states concerned."

It should draw up guidelines for future relations among CSCE members, "assess the military negotiations in Vienna and launch negotiations within the CSCE framework on security and disarmament," the statement said. (Reuters)

Immune to totalitarian regime: West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl says he understands the anxiety of some Holocaust victims about German unity but he believes East Germans are especially immune to any new totalitarian temptations.

More broadcast for East Europe

BBC plans expansion

WASHINGTON, March 3, (AP): British Broadcasting Corp. announced plans to expand its programmes in Eastern Europe, especially Romania, and in the United States.

"One of the main principles behind the success of our international broadcasting is that we broadcast to our friends as well as those who, until recently, were enemies," said John Tusa, managing director of the BBC World Service.

Tusa, who was born in Czechoslovakia, said Eastern European countries still need to hear controversy, comment and news from a broad international viewpoint. He said non-communist leaders in Eastern Europe, including Polish Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki, have asked the BBC to continue and are giving it facilities for local broadcast of its programmes.

Mazowiecki is a former contributor to BBC programmes. Broadcasts to Romania were increased by two hours during the Christmas uprising that overthrew the government of President Nicolae Ceausescu. Tusa said another hour and a quarter will be added soon.

"We have reallocated funds to Eastern Europe through the internal budgeting process — more money for Russian, Bulgarian, Romanian," he said.

He explained that special emphasis has been put on broadcasting to Romania because of the intensity of the crisis there last Christmas and difficulties now in finding stability and a way toward transition to a new political system.

To show the influence British broadcasts have had, Tusa held up a photograph taken last June in Tiananmen Square before Chinese tanks put down the pro-democracy movement. Students were carrying the Chinese flag and a sign in both English and Chinese. In English it said: "Thank you BBC."

Tusa added that BBC officials are asking Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's government for more money but declined to say how much. He insisted that government funding does not lessen BBC independence.

Abidjan students stone cars, loot supermarkets as police halt peaceful protest

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast, March 3, (AP): Rampaging students stoned cars and buses, looted a supermarket and hurled firebombs at police after peaceful protests were halted yesterday by paramilitary troops firing tear gas and smoke grenades.

Hundreds of civil servants went on strike, joining university and school students outside downtown ministry offices yelling: "Houphouet: thief, Houphouet: Corrupt."

Demonstrators calling for President Felix Houphouet-Boigny to step down pose the most potent challenge to the Ivorian leader since he took control of this

Greece fails to elect president

Marina Dizi, deputy of the Ecologists Party, unfolds a banner during the third and last round of parliamentary voting for a new president. The banner reads: "Enough theatrics. Pollution is the only president." The parliament failed to choose a new head of state, formally clearing the way for elections next month. None of the candidates for the mostly ceremonial presidential post received the necessary 180 votes.

According to the constitution, parliament's indecisive vote forces the country to hold national elections — the third within ten months. (Reuters wirephoto)

Massive anti-red rally in Sofia

SOPIA, March 3, (Reuters): Some 30,000 Bulgarians waving blue pro-opposition flags and shouting "down with the Bulgarian Communist Party" massed in central Sofia today to support a faster transition to democracy.

"We have had enough experience in our history not to try again to accept the communist proposal for 'democratic socialism,'" Union of Democratic Forces (UDF) President Zhelev told the crowd outside the Alexander Nevsky Cathedral.

"Even if people could see the crisis of socialism in the socialist countries and the triumph of the liberal Western democracies," he declared.

Since giving up their automatic right to rule late last year, the communists have been holding round-table talks with opposition groups. But the opposition has accused them of delaying agreement on urgent changes leading towards democracy.

The UDF-sponsored rally was the third mass protest this week against the all-communist government. In last month's election, opposition groups refused to join a coalition with the party.

On Friday 20,000 students marched through the capital and last Sunday the largest anti-communist protest yet was joined by over 80,000 people, angry at the slow pace of reform since the departure of Todor Zhivkov last November.

Earlier, Prime Minister Andrei Lukanov and other members of the government attended a mass in the cathedral celebrated by orthodox metropolitan Maxim to mark Bulgaria's national day.

Head of state Peter Mladenov decreed this week that the national day, previously marking the communist takeover on September 9, 1944, be changed to March 3, the anniversary of Bulgaria's liberation from Turkish rule in the 19th century.

Zhelev rejected the UDF's proposal that general elections in the summer should create a great national assembly, a provisional parliament which would draft a constitution and a new election law and then dissolve itself.

The government has proposed holding elections in a single round in June. The Communist Party daily Rabotnichesko Delo said today that under the opposition plan, announced at a news conference yesterday, fresh elections would be held around November.

Soviets plan radical steps

Russians go to polls

MOSCOW, March 3, (Reuters): The Soviet Union will unveil radical new measures in a few days to tackle growing social unrest and economic shortages, a senior planning official said yesterday.

Moscow radio's Interfax news service, meanwhile, said communist leaders will meet on March 11 in a plenary session to discuss nominating a candidate, almost certainly Mikhail Gorbachev, for a proposed new presidential post.

Elsewhere in the Soviet Union, disturbances continued in the south, as one million people gathered in Baku, capital of Azerbaijan, to mourn those killed when Kremlin troops entered the city in January to stamp out inter-ethnic violence.

And workers at three coal mines began a strike in the Ukrainian city of Donetsk to demand the resignation of the local political leadership. The area was a centre of labour unrest in a country-wide coal strike last summer.

Andrei Orlov, deputy chairman of the state commission for economic reform, said a reform package aimed at placating unrest over shortages of basic goods could be introduced to the Congress of People's Deputies.

the expanded parliament, which convenes on March 12-13 or to the Supreme Soviet, even earlier. "We need to provide a basic range of cheap food products to reduce social tension and we need to get these products delivered across the country, not state even using the resources of the armed forces for transport," he said yesterday.

The Interfax reported did not say who the Central Committee would nominate to the new, more powerful presidential post, but it was virtually tailor-made for Gorbachev. Last week, the post was approved by the Supreme Soviet, or standing Parliament.

Proponents said Gorbachev had very limited powers in his current position as president of the Parliament — whose laws he cannot veto — to cope with ethnic turmoil, economic chaos and popular discontent which has spread across the country.

The new position, which would give him the power to declare martial law or a state of emergency in parts of the country, must still be approved by the Congress.

Interfax said the Central Committee meeting would take place simultaneously with the Congress, if necessary.

Troop pullout by 1992

Soviets to quit Mongolia

MOSCOW, March 3, (AP): The Soviet Union said yesterday it would withdraw all its troops from Mongolia by 1992, part of an accelerating effort to trim its military budget and reduce its armed forces abroad.

The pullback will affect an estimated 60,000 troops in the sparsely populated country on the Chinese border and is apparently aimed at normalising relations with Beijing.

Mongolia, long considered a Soviet client state, sided with Moscow in the late 1950s when relations between the Soviet Union and China turned sour. But the recent Sino-Soviet rapprochement has spilled over to Mongolia and greatly reduced tensions along the border.

Yesterday's announcement, carried by the official news agency Tass, said the main Soviet combat units would be removed in 1991, and remaining equipment and support units would be withdrawn in 1992.

Previously, the Soviets had said they would remove about three-quarters of their troops and all of their aircraft from Mongolia, which has a population of about 2 million people in a territory the size of Western Europe.

The London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies yearbook for 1989-90 estimated the Soviets had 60,000 troops in Mongolia, including one army headquarters unit, two tank divisions and two motorised rifle divisions.

The Soviet Union announced in December that it had a total of 627,500 troops abroad and would like to bring them home by the year 2000. However, Soviet officials have said the pullout would not be unilateral and would depend on negotiations with other nations.

A government statement cited "security concerns" and said security forces would enforce the closures.

The government accused an unidentified "group of individuals" of "spreading trouble" and said students responsible for "vandalism" would be "severely punished" within the limits of the law.

LANCILLA

INTERNATIONAL

KGB man tipped CIA on Pope plot

WASHINGTON, March 3, (Agencies): A blonde-haired defector from the Soviet intelligence service claimed yesterday that he tipped off the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) to an alleged plot to kill Pope John Paul II months before the 1981 assassination attempt.

Former KGB major Victor Sheymov also told a packed news conference that KGB bodyguards assassinated Afghan leader Hafizullah Amin in 1979 and that the Soviet agency probably assassinated Pakistani President Mohammad Zia Ul-Haq in a 1988 airplane explosion.

Sheymov, who wore tinted glasses and joked with reporters that his unnatural-looking blonde hair was a wig, also asserted there were two State Department employees working for

the KGB but refused to say if they were still in place or had been given other details.

At an hour-long press conference, Sheymov fielded questions about the KGB, where he served as a communications and code expert before being spirited to Washington by US agents in 1980.

Sheymov, 43, said that after his defection he told the CIA in 1980 about a report suggesting the Soviets were interested in assassinating the Polish-born Pope.

He said he told the CIA that he while in Warsaw he had been told in 1979 by a KGB general of a cable requesting information about how to get physically close to the Pope.

The phrase "physically close," Sheymov explained, was Soviet intelligence slang for

assassination.

The Pope was shot and wounded in May 1981 at the Vatican's St Peter's Square. A Turk, Mehmet Ali Agca, was convicted of the assassination attempt and he claimed there was a vague Bulgarian secret service connection to the shooting.

Sheymov said he did not know what the CIA did with the information but admitted he had few details about how an assassination try might come about.

Sheymov said that then-KGB chief Yuri Andropov, who later died after becoming leader of the Soviet Union, was furious that the Pope was elevated to that post from a socialist country.

A high Bush administration official familiar

with the Sheymov case and intelligence matters confirmed to Reuters that Sheymov "was a legitimate defector" who was a top communications expert familiar with the so-called Soviet cipher coding system.

Sheymov has written several articles for the Washington Post under the name of Victor Orlov and said he has written a book about his KGB experiences that he is now trying to sell. He said he defected because of disillusionment with the Soviet system.

Sheymov also revealed KGB cables had discussed whether an agent should break the legs of ballet star Rudolf Nureyev, who defected from the Soviet Union in 1961, since he continued to make many anti-communist statements in the West.



Sheymov... defects

Antarctic team completes trip

PARIS, March 3, (AP): The six members of an international expedition arrived today at a Soviet base on Antarctica's eastern coast, completing what organizers called the longest unmechanized crossing of the forbidding continent.

"I'm feeling great happiness and great relief at the end of seven difficult months," co-leader Jean-Louis Etienne of France said in a live interview on French television moments after the arrival just after 1 pm Paris time (1200 GMT).

In a hookup with reporters in Paris, Etienne said he was looking forward to returning to normal life. He said that apart from his companions and the dogs that pulled the sleds, he saw only three animals, all birds.

"I want to see nature. I want to see living things," Etienne said.

The arrival ended a seven-month, 3,800-mile (6,115-kilometre) trek by ski and dogsled that risked turning to tragedy at the very close.

Keizo Funatsu of Japan disappeared in a blizzard for 11 hours before being found by his worried fellow adventurers yesterday morning.

Funatsu, one of six explorers on the expedition, was returning on Thursday night from a visit to a nearby group of French filmmakers covering the trek when he became lost in blinding snow driven by fierce winds.

Expedition headquarters in St Paul, Minnesota, said the other team members, noticing Funatsu's absence, tied themselves together to search for him. They gave up the search on Thursday night and resumed early yesterday.

The group found Funatsu in good condition early last morning. They said he was shouting "I'm alive" and that he had survived for 13-1/2 hours by mimicking his dogs, which dig holes in the snow and crawl inside for warmth.



Miss USA

Carole Gist, (right), a 20-year-old college student from Detroit, on Friday night became the first black Miss USA in the 39-year history of the beauty pageant.

She will go on to the Miss Universe contest in Los Angeles April 15.

The 6-foot (183 cm) Gist beat out runner-up Gina Tolleson (left) Miss South Carolina, of Spartanburg, South Carolina, and third-place Karin Hartz, Miss New Jersey, of Voorhees, New Jersey.

The format was changed this year and just the top three advanced to the finals instead of the top five as in years past.



Noriega's wife in Havana

The wife and three daughters of ousted Panamanian military strongman General Manuel Noriega arrived in Cuba on Friday night after being granted safe passage out of Panama.

Felicidad Siero, her daughters Thais, Lorena and Sandra, and a six-month-old grandson arrived at Havana airport on a regular Cuban flight from Panama.

Cuban Deputy Foreign Minister Miguel Bruguera (left) was at the airport to greet them although the reception was low-key.

NYT big winner

NEW YORK, March 3, (Agencies): The New York Times dominated the annual George Polk awards in journalism, winning three citations for its coverage of education, the turmoil in China and chemical weapons.

It was the fifth time in the 41-year history of the awards that a single news organization swept the top prizes in a single year.

The Polk awards are named for a CBS correspondent killed in 1948 while covering the Greek civil war. A committee of Long Island university faculty and alumni select the winners. The awards will be presented at a luncheon on April 4.

The categories and the winners:

- Career award: Fred M. Hechinger, now the President of the New York Times company foundation, for 43 years of reporting and commenting on education for the Times.
- Foreign reporting: Nicholas D. Kristof and Sheryl Wu-Dunn, Beijing correspondents for the New York Times, for their coverage of the Chinese student uprising.
- International reporting: Stephen Engelberg and Michael R. Gordon, Washington Bureau reporters for the New York Times, for stories on chemical weapons-producing technology in the Third World.
- National reporting: Rick Atkinson of the Washington Post for a three-part series on the Stealth bomber.
- Political reporting: Andrew Melnykovich of the Casper Star-Tribune in Wyoming for exposing collusion between the federal government and 12 oil companies to cut back on royalty payments to Wyoming.
- Local reporting: The Hartford (Connecticut) Courant for its articles on the civil rights effects of recording suspects' conversations with their lawyers.

US team senses 'new tone' of SA

Congressmen meet De Klerk

PRETORIA, March 3, (Agencies): A high-powered US congressional delegation, including key proponents of sanctions against South Africa, held talks with President Frederik de Klerk yesterday and came away from their meeting aware of a "new tone" by the government.

The delegation's three-day visit comes on the heels of meetings with black nationalist leader Nelson Mandela and African National Congress officials in Lusaka who urged the maintenance, and even intensification, of sanctions against South Africa.

US Rep. William Gray, house majority whip and delegation leader, said the goal of the Americans was to ascertain the depth of the changes within South Africa in the wake of De Klerk's bold racial reforms.

The month-old reforms included the lifting of a 30-year ban on the ANC, the release of Mandela and the removal of more than 150 names from a massive list of persons who were not allowed to be quoted in South Africa under the internal security act. Among those were Oliver Tambo, president in exile of the ANC.

The visit of the nine US representatives coincided with the first return from exile to South Africa of two ANC activists. The elderly white couple, Ray Alexander and Jack Simons, smiled broadly at their welcome by hundreds of supporters at the Jan Smuts airport in Johannesburg.

"The real revolution is about to begin," said the frail, 83-year-old Simons.

In Pretoria, the US delegation held four long meetings each with De Klerk and Foreign Affairs Minister Roelof "Pik" Botha. Gray characterized the delegation's talks with De Klerk as "a very candid discussion of the issues."

Gray, a democrat from Pennsylvania who wrote the house version of the anti-apartheid acts of 1985 and 1986, declined to answer questions concerning the future of sanctions against South Africa. He said he preferred to wait until a news conference scheduled toward the end of the delegation's visit.

The comprehensive US legislation imposed stinging sanctions against South Africa, cutting air links to the country and sharply curbing bilateral trade and technology exchanges. It was approved by Congress over a veto by former president Ronald Reagan.

The delegation also includes

Mandela overworked

LUSAKA, March 3, (AP): African National Congress officials are worried that Nelson Mandela is too busy and will be selective about accepting foreign trips and future engagements for him, a senior official said yesterday.

The official said Mandela, 71, had met a full working schedule and been followed everywhere by hundreds of journalists since his release Feb 11 from 27 years in prison.

The ANC's policy-making national executive committee will work out Mandela's schedule, the official said. The committee yesterday named Mandela the ANC's deputy president, a new post that appears to be second-in-command to President Oliver Tambo.

"For someone who has been isolated in prison for so long, it's incredible," the official said of Mandela. "He hasn't stopped. We all want to be sure he isn't overworking. Wherever he goes he meets a barrage of TV lights and people who want to see him."

Rep. Ronald Dellums, Democrat-California, the author of a tougher sanctions bill that failed to pass the US Senate in 1988.

During his hour long meeting with the congressmen Thursday in Zambia, Mandela said the next years would be crucial in South Africa's history. Mandela urged the delegation to maintain sanctions against South Africa, "even intensifying them, is the best way of helping President (Frederik) De Klerk in his attempt to pen a new path in the history of this country."

No comment on the US delegation's visit was immediately forthcoming from De Klerk's office. But after an earlier meeting between the American representatives and Botha, the foreign affairs minister characterized the delegation's trip as a "personal orientation visit" to ascertain and assess the latest developments in the country.

"I have tried to reply to their questions concerning the future

how the South African government sees this future," Botha said. I can summarize it by saying I consider these talks to be positive, constructive. "I'm encouraged by the views I've heard and I wish our friends from the United States a safe and pleasant journey back to their country."

Mandela's new title as deputy president of the African National Congress (ANC) will enhance his authority in South Africa as his organization moves towards talks with the white-minority government.

Mandela's election as deputy president, a post not filled since the 1950s, was the main decision announced after a two-day meeting with the 35-strong National Executive Committee which has run the ANC in exile for nearly 30 years.

Mandela's election will make him the top ANC official inside South Africa, ending speculation that the 71-year-old nationalist was no more than an ordinary member or at best a figurehead.



Filephoto of Dr Martin Luther King Jr (Centre) leading some 300 marchers during their second day of their Selma to Montgomery march. (Reuter wirephoto)

March marks 'Bloody Sunday'

SELMA, Alabama, March 3, (UPI): About 400 civil rights activists marched to City Hall and called on town leaders to "do the right thing" in the first of several events scheduled to mark the 25th anniversary of "Bloody Sunday."

The marchers, led by the Rev. Fred Shuttlesworth and the Rev. Benjamin Chavis Jr., carried signs and sang songs of the civil rights movement of the 1960s as they marched yesterday from Selma high school to the outside of City Hall, then to the Edmund Pettus bridge.

Shuttlesworth, 67, delivered an impassioned speech at City Hall reminiscent of his days at a civil rights leader in Alabama in the 1960s. Shuttlesworth, who now lives in Ohio, told the marchers, "we're on God's side."

"I'm glad to be here," Shuttlesworth said. "We have some unfinished business in Selma."

A few small knots of black and white spectators watched the demonstration silently as the marchers chanted "do the right thing." Police stood guard at the door to prevent the protesters from entering. Most of the offices inside, however, were either empty or locked.

The group later marched to the foot of the bridge, where they blocked traffic for about 20 minutes while Shuttlesworth and others spoke. At one point, an impatient motorist began honking his horn.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Latin America

New environment secretary: Brazil's best-known ecologist was named on Friday as secretary of the environment and immediately called for world talks to preserve the Amazon jungle which previous Brazilian governments have been accused of destroying.

Introducing Jose Lutzenberger at a news conference in Brasilia, president-elect Fernando Collor de Mello said Brazil would no longer be the target of criticism over the environment. (Reuter)

Uruguayan chooses 90-year-old: A Uruguayan newspaper editor who accepted a challenge to duel against a policeman chose a 90-year-old ecologist and a congresswoman as his new seconds on Friday after the original ones resigned because he does not intend defending himself.

The daily La Republica's owner-editor Federico Fassano this week picked up the gauntlet thrown by provincial police officer Saul Claveria, who took exception at an article run by the newspaper.

Uruguay's new president Luis Lacalle Herrera said he disagreed with the way Fassano and Claveria will settle their feud but indicated he would not intervene to stop it. (Reuter)

Teachers demand higher wages: Argentina's biggest teachers union is threatening to strike Monday, the first day of classes after summer vacation, to demand higher wages in this inflation-wracked nation.

On Friday, interest rates for intrabank lending rose to record levels - 28 per cent a day - ahead of the government's scheduled announcement of a new plan to try to rescue the economy. Analysts said the increase reflected concern about the new government measures. (AP)

Quake hits before Bush's address: A wide area of southern California rolled Friday with another aftershock of Wednesday's big earthquake, triggering a rockslide on a mountain road but no reports of significant damage or injuries.

The quake shook Los Angeles, Riverside, San Bernardino and San Diego counties. It also hit Orange county three hours before President George Bush addressed an anti-drug rally. (AP)

Atlantis to land today: Atlantis' astronauts, silent to the world because of their military mission, put in a final day of work in orbit Friday on their last-hush assignments before preparing for a Sunday landing.

Mass said Atlantis is scheduled to land on Sunday at Edwards Air Force Base, and a spokesman said this means the five-member, all-military crew probably will spend most of Saturday packing up for the return to Earth. (AP)

VOA saves six languages: The Voice of America on Friday announced that it has decided to save six language services slated for elimination by budget cuts, in response to pressure from its managers and listeners.

VOA director Richard Carlson informed employees that the Lao, Greek, Turkish, Swahili, Slovene and Uzbek language programmes would remain on the air and their 57 broadcasters and producers would keep their jobs. (AP)

War criminal's home seized: A judge has ordered the seizure of the home and bank account of Imre Finta, the man accused in Canada's first warcrimes trial, a decision made public on Friday.

The money will be used to pay the court costs of Canada's largest private television network for an aborted libel action started by Finta. (Reuters)



Uruguayan President

Newly inaugurated Uruguayan President Luis Lacalle (right) accompanied by his wife Maria Julia Pou waves to the crowd during a military parade. (Reuter wirephoto)

America

Parachutist arrested: A skydiver who was fired at by a secret service agent after parachuting into the parking lot of the hotel where President George Bush was staying apparently did not know the president was in town, authorities said Friday.

Bush was inside the Central Plaza hotel during the episode Thursday that ended with the arrest of Charles Sweeney, 47, of the Los Angeles suburb of Santa Clarita.

Sweeney, arrested at his home hours after the incident, was booked for investigation of assault with a deadly weapon on a law officer, said police Lt. Al Moen. He was freed on \$3,000 bail on the charge, which stemmed from alleged attempts to run down officers in the getaway car. (AP)

Long-term health care

WASHINGTON, March 3, (AP): A bipartisan commission recommended an ambitious \$66 billion plan yesterday to provide health insurance and long-term care to nearly all citizens.

It immediately drew criticism from Congress and some of its own members for failing to recommend a way to pay for it.

The US bipartisan commission on comprehensive health care reported it has approved proposals to provide universal health insurance.

Chamorro to turn over seized lands to tenants; to compensate owners

MANAGUA, March 3, (AP): The new government, led by the United National Opposition coalition, is planning to turn over land seized by the leftist Sandinistas to people now working it and compensate the previous owners, officials said.

Confiscated land that is now idle will be rented out and priority will be given to its previous owners, said Francisco Mayorga, a senior economic adviser to president-elect Violeta Barrios de Chamorro.

Mayorga told reporters yesterday that 40 per cent of the nation's 2.5 million arable acres is owned by the Ministry of Agrarian Reform.

People now working that land will get title to it, Mayorga said.

He said the former owners will be compensated with government bonds based on pre-confiscation tax values - something that may be painful for owners who deliberately undervalued their land.

Land ownership is one of the key issues during the transition between the Sandinistas, who were supported by the Soviet Union and Cuba, and Chamorro's US-backed coalition. The UNO candidates defeated the Sandinistas in last Sunday's election and will take office April 25.

Chamorro said yesterday that the tran-

sition talks were going well.

In addition to the issue of land ownership, transition talks have focused on control of the Sandinista army and Interior Ministry security forces. The Sandinistas don't want to reduce give up control of those forces until the US-supported Nicaraguan guerrillas, or Contras, disband.

In Miami, Contra leaders said they would not disband until they could hold talks with Chamorro's government to guarantee their safety.

The Sandinista-controlled military forces are about 150,000 strong. UNO wants

to reduce them sharply and eliminate the draft.

Mayorga, heading Monday to the United States to lobby for economic aid, said the new government would have to move fast to help farmers plant crops before the May rains.

He said the nation would need \$500 million to \$600 million in annual aid from all sources, about what the same as it was receiving under President Daniel Ortega.

The bulk of the aid, however, came from Eastern Europe, Cuba and the Soviet Union, sources that were drying up even before the UNO victory.

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KUWAIT ... GULF

Red tape hampers food security hopes: Official

Increase in agricultural area requested

THERE is every possibility to expand the agricultural sector in Kuwait, provided the red tape and bureaucracy is eliminated, the Assistant General Secretary at the Ministries Council and board member of the Kuwait Farmers Union, Jassem Ahmad Al Amer said.

Agriculture is basically a perishable commodity, and any delay in implementing decisions is counter productive, the

official said. During an interview with a local daily, he added that as the union enters the decade of the 90's, it has very high hopes in relation to achieving food security in the country.

Bottlenecks

Ameer advocated enhancing the improvement of the agricultural sector in

Kuwait based on latest technologies and to re-evaluate existing rules and regulations which have been found to contain several bottlenecks and in cases counter productive.

He said that further emphasis should be accorded to the agricultural sector by emphasizing the development of this sector on a priority basis during the coming

stages. Amir said that the study conducted by Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research and the Ministry of Electricity and Water on water storage should encompass the increasing agricultural area in the country. Further, new policies of supply, marketing protection and innovative technologies should be introduced, the official said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Amir praised

KUWAIT, March 3, (Kuna): The extensive interview offered by his HH the Amir Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, to the widely-circulated Soviet weekly magazine "Ogonyok," was praised today by two Kuwaiti papers.

An Arabic daily said when HH indicated that the various political and social regimes can establish strong relations among them, HH actually was referring to the principle of international relations, which Kuwait has, for long, believed in.

It added such a principle gained Kuwait, this small country, global respect and appreciation in a world that is torn by differences and conflicts.

Meanwhile, another paper said that the Amir reiterated his firm support for the legitimate Palestinian struggle.

It expressed the belief that HH's statement, which is a reminder for the Soviet Union about its obligations to the Mideast peace, particularly after the US started to act as if it is the only power to decide the Palestinian people's fate.

Amiri message

KUWAIT, March 3, (Kuna): His Highness the Amir sent a cable of congratulations to Moroccan monarch King Hassan II on the occasion of the anniversary of his assuming the throne.

Diplomatic ties

BAHRAIN, March 3, (Reuter): Bahrain and Hungary decided today to establish diplomatic relations, a foreign ministry statement said.

Bahrain previously had no relations with any state in the Eastern bloc, swept by democratic changes last year. Hungary abandoned its communist constitution last October.

The announcement followed talks today between the Amir, Sheikh Isa Bin Sulman Al Khalifa, and Hungarian Foreign Ministry Undersecretary Frank Sumoji.

The statement, carried by the Gulf News Agency, said they agreed to establish ties "based on non-interference in internal affairs" to increase friendship and co-operation.

Ministers meet

ABU DHABI, March 3, (Kuna): The 34th session of the Ministerial Council of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) tomorrow discusses several Gulf, Arab and international issues, it was disclosed here today.

Kuwait News Agency (Kuna) today learned that the session, among other issues, will discuss the latest developments in the Gulf region topped by application of peace between Iraq and Iran and pushing forward peace efforts to achieve stability.

The ministers, sources said, will discuss Palestinian situation and the impact of the Soviet Jews immigration to the Arab occupied territories on the peace process in the Middle East, in addition to the Lebanese crisis.

The sources added that the session, will tackle the latest developments in the international arena and repercussions on the Arab nation, and the GCC-EEC relations in the light of the signed agreement between them in 1988.

The two-day meetings will review several economic reports related to links of the GCC with other international economic groups, in addition to the latest private reports of committees of the GCC in the framework of supporting and co-ordinating co-operation among GCC in various fields.

Morocco celebrates

KUWAIT, March 3, (Kuna): Moroccan monarch King Hassan II will deliver an important speech today on the occasion of the 29th anniversary of assuming the throne, a press report said.

Official sources informed a local daily that the monarch will discuss major Arab and international developments and will focus on the situation of his country and the Polisario issue.

The sources added that King Hassan II will meet with ministers, ambassadors and several journalists who represent Asia, Europe and Africa to answer their questions on various Arab and regional developments.

The ceremony will be held at the city of Agadir.



Borrow it now!

A well-adorned jeep was seen carefully poised on the roof of a house in one of the local residential areas during the 29th National Day celebrations. Neighbours were quoted as saying that the owner of the jeep came up with idea of positioning his car on top of his diwaniya after getting bored with the incessant requests of his friends to borrow his jeep.

Review legislation, say private school owners

Almost 5,000 students at institutes

THERE are about 139,000 students studying in private Arabic schools and statistics indicate that a significant rise in the number of students is registered every year which entails reviewing the current legislations governing private education system in the country to keep abreast with changes in the national arena.

Speaking on the issue, the chairman of the Private School Owners Union, Khalifah Al Jari said that each class should ideally consist of 36 students, as opposed to the present number of around 42 students.

The official commented that about 65 per cent of private school students study at modern schools that have been provided with all necessary facilities, including central airconditioning systems.

Giving a background on the activities of the union, Jari said that it had started its operations in 1973 with strengthening ties with the authorities concerned to achieve a co-operative spirit between these two official bodies. He added that the union spared no efforts to upgrade the private education sector along with the co-operation of the authorities.

The union co-ordinates its efforts with authorities concerned towards provision of the necessary plots for construction of modern schools and for conducting necessary educational research along with all infrastructure and facilities.

Meanwhile, the official praised the co-operation between the union and the private education department at the Ministry of Education, adding that the union is striving to enhance existing co-operation.

The official denied any disparity in the level of tuition among Arabic private schools and commented that these fees had been defined by the Ministry of Education and had been specified as follows: KD130 for children attending kindergarten, without any government subsidy; KD67,500 for the primary stage with an additional amount of KD80 being paid by the Ministry of Education as a subsidy; and KD132,500 for secondary stages, with KD117,500 being ministry subsidy.

There have been intensified communications with the union and officials of the Ministry of Education in relation to the admission procedures pertaining to stateless persons at private schools, Jari said. He

added that positive results were obtained as the ministry agreed to admit stateless students in Arabic private schools provided that the parents of these students are covered in the public census held in Kuwait in 1965. Further, admission of these students is based on total tuition fees being borne by the parents.

On salaries paid to the teaching staff at private Arabic schools, the official said that these are based on the Ministry of Education's scales. KD120 is paid for teachers in the primary stages, KD145 for the intermediate stage and KD180 for teachers of the secondary stages. He disclosed that the union is striving to ensure that salaries paid to staff at the private Arabic schools is on a level with their counterparts in the government schools. Unfortunately, until the present, this has not been successful as the ministry refuses to subsidise these wages. However, he said that there is no truth in the rumour that teachers have not been paid their summer vacations as this has been accorded as their right by the ministry.

Commenting on charges that private education has transferred the educational process into a commercial venture, the official said that the education process constitutes a human investment for the benefit and prosperity of the nation. In this respect, the government allocates the largest budget to educate the future generations who will have to bear the country's responsibilities on their shoulders.

He added that the objectives of private education are identical to that of the government sector, although costs allocated to students at the private schools equals 25 per cent of the counterparts at the government school.

Speaking of the private institutes in the country, the official said that these institutes supervised by the private education department at the Ministry of Education are well managed and the union will not hesitate to develop and co-operate with these institutes with their certified programmes. Approximately, 5,000 students are presently studying in these institutes, Jari said.

He also called for setting up a new university, particularly after the setting up of the Ministry of Higher Education.

Houti opens Ghazali bridge

KUWAIT, March 3, (Kuna): Public Works Minister Abdul Rahman Al Houti said today that completion of Al Ghazali Bridge project will be the start of constructing the sea bridge which will connect Kuwait city with Al Subbiya city.

Houti, in a news conference following his inauguration of the four kilometres-long Ghazali Bridge, said the bridge is one of the ministry's major schemes to upgrade Kuwait's highways network during the last years.

He indicated that the design studies for Al Subbiya bridge are almost ready, expressing hope that the final picture of such a vital project will be clear soon.

The opening of the bridge, whose cost stood at KD29 million and took five years to construct, came within the country's celebrations of the 29th National Day.

The inaugural ceremony was attended by State Minister for Municipal Affairs Engineer Mohammed Al Rifai, Traffic Department Director Brigadier Abdul Hamid Al Haji, French ambassador to Kuwait as well as senior interior and public works officials.

Awadi returns

THE Minister of Planning and acting Minister of Public Health Dr Abdul Rahman Al Awadi and his accompanying delegation are back in the country from Riyadh where he participated in the meetings of the 28th Council of Arab Gulf Ministers.

He told a local daily that the meetings marked the beginning of a new stage of co-operation between the Arab Gulf countries to further co-ordinate efforts to develop the existing level of health services.

He said that a number of significant decisions were adopted at the meetings for the purpose of consolidating existing co-operation and co-ordination efforts in all fields, including health care.

He said that of the important decisions taken at the meeting was one to co-ordinate ongoing efforts to combat the Aids disease and drugs adding that the Arab Gulf ministers had demanded the doubling of existing taxation on imported tobacco in a gradual process as part of a well-organised anti-smoking education campaign.

He said that the recommendations adopted at the meeting banned the publication of tobacco advertisements in the local press, adding that the forthcoming conference on dental health would discuss among other things oral health, treatment, prevention and matters pertaining to the existing dental equipment and medications.

KNSU continues to oppose credits system

Large numbers of students dismissed

THE Chairman of Kuwait National Students Union (KNSU) Naser Al Einazi was quoted as saying that the union will continue its opposition to the Credit Hours System regulations which had been applicable to students of the academic year 1986/1987.

In a news conference held at the union headquarters in Al Khaldiya area, Einazi called for revising the regulations and said that application of these regulations had resulted in hundreds of students being forced to leave the university.

He disclosed that although many leading personalities had called for amending the charter with respect to this clause, the previous administration of the university insisted on applying it claiming that they desired to develop the academic levels of students at the university. He said that hundreds of students had left the university, before others were officially dismissed.

Citing examples, he said that in 1986, 2,800 students of this system were supposed to have graduated, but in actual fact only 1,748 had been fortunate in being conferred with the certificate.

The remaining who had to leave the university lost their years of study. He commented that strict application of this system will lead eventually to the dismissal of hundreds of students each semester. A system to be effective, has to have a level of flexibility, he added.

This high percentage of loss of students, is a big national loss that requires senior officials of higher education to study the dangerous results of the application of this rule. He said that 72 per cent of students of the faculty of sciences, 92.7 per cent of the faculty of law and 50 per cent of faculty of engineering received warnings or were suspended for different reasons. At the faculty of law only seven students of those who were admitted in 1986 were not served warnings.

Commenting on the batch of 1987, he said that only 1,913 students are still registered. He

added that, 1,008 students received warnings or were suspended (52.69 per cent) which is a very tragic percentage. He said that 76 per cent of students of allied medicine faculty received warnings which translates into these students not being qualified to continue their studies.

The 1988 batch — 23.3 per cent of students who are still registered (2,599 students) have received first or second warnings of whom 90 per cent are Kuwaitis.

Nevertheless, he said that the KNSU had visited the new administration of the university at the beginning of last fall and explained the seriousness of the issue. The new administration following the appointment of Dr Shuaib Abdullah as Rector of the university had shown great concern on the issue and assured that hundreds of students had left the university, before others were officially dismissed.

A new tripartite committee has been formed to follow up on the workings of this issue under the chairmanship of Dr Najeed Al Salem, the deputy rector for scientific affairs and has as its members: the dean of Registration and Admission Dr Sabah Qaddumi and Dr Abdullah Al Fuhaid from Kuwait University.

However, Einazi said that the fall session had ended and the administration did not make any amendments, and has not kept its promises. The three member committee did not have any meetings till the present, although it was set up in October 1989. The union on querying was told that the university is waiting for recommendations of faculties on this problem. The last date for receiving these recommendations was Feb 14, 1990 and was extended to Feb 21, 1990. Once again, until 27.2.1990 none of the faculties have submitted their recommendations or proposals. He added that students were very happy at the decision taken by the deans committee on 15.2.1990 to cancel the warnings

issued to students of scientific majors. This facilitated many students to benefit from the partial amendment of the charter. He added that as representatives of the students, the union is obliged to have this clause of the university charter amended.

Chance

Meanwhile, the dean of students of Kuwait University Dr Abdullah Al Fuhaid said that students who receive three warnings are suspended for one session. During this session the student should submit a petition to the students affairs committee explaining the reason of his failure. The committee also studies the academic record of the student before deciding to give him another chance to increase his grades or to dismiss him. The student should present documents showing social, health or other circumstances that led to his failure. He added that his meeting with representatives of students was to explain for them the work procedures of the committee.

Dr Fuhaid pointed out that only 458 students from all batches and all faculties got three warnings at the end of last summer session. The committee gave chance to 120 students to hike their grades and others were dismissed from university according to the basic charter of the course system at the university. But he added that this chance is an exceptional one and not a base. He added that it is not necessary that every student joins the university should graduate. He added that according to the traditional academic system the student is dismissed from university if he repeats the year and fails again in US universities students are dismissed if they get two warnings. He denied that university dismisses students because of the theoretical faculties because state does not want more graduates of these faculties. The students are dismissed only after completing four sessions at least and this is applied on all students at all faculties, he said.

Bahraini women leading the way

AS Bahrain joins the rest of the world in celebrating International Women's Day this week it can be justifiably proud of the tremendous strides the island's women have taken in social, cultural, educational and economic spheres. For indeed Bahrain's women's rise in all aspects of life in the national environment and their significant contribution to the overall progress of the nation puts them on a high pedestal as far as women in the region are concerned. The island's women rank among the pioneers in the Gulf in being the first to break through traditional and conservative barriers and assume their much respected and impressive position in Bahrain's modern society.

Education has been the key to the great success achieved by the country's growing female population. The island's rulers have always encouraged the participation of its women in the modernisation of the nation as far back as the twenties. In this respect Bahrain is the first country in the region to start a school for girls. Thanks to the pioneering efforts and foresight of its rulers, Bahrain's women's success-story can rival that of Western nations.

Today, females outnumber men in most of the country's educational institutions. An increasing number of girls proceed for higher studies to colleges and universities here as well as abroad to complete their education. The drop-out rate among boys of secondary school level is higher than that of girls, most of whom manage to finish their studies even after marriage, thanks to an increasingly liberal and flexible society.

Access to higher education has given Bahraini women a new sense of identity as an invaluable member of society. While closely adhering to the spiritual, cultural and social values, women have become conscious of playing a bigger role with respect to their responsibilities to themselves and family than before.

Bahrain's growing number of educated women are today participating in nation-building with a zeal and commitment that is acknowledged and even envied by its neighbours.

It has now become a matter of course and generally accepted for Bahraini women to take up employment. For indeed it is deemed unusual for a girl, who just finished school or college, not to venture into the job market. Women are absorbed into the labour-force in some cases faster than the males. Female employees outnumber men in most Civil Service departments. The private sector, including such sophisticated highly paid sectors as banking, insurance, travel, has not been behind in recruiting national females thanks to Bahrain government's policy of Bahrainisation and its keenness to encourage females to work.

Achievements

The achievement of Bahrain has been swift and commendable in the last decade. There has been a growing number of females holding professional positions in both national and international firms. In recent times women entrepreneurs have become a welcome sight in a formerly male-dominated business scene. More and more Bahraini women, albeit with the support and understanding of their husbands and family, are venturing into the world of sophisticated business ventures like beauty parlours and boutiques. Bahrain's daughters have been successful in blending perfectly with the norms and trends of modern times in keeping with the fast-paced development in other parts of the world without compromising their ethnic values.

A number of Bahraini women are holding key and influential posts in government ministries and directorates. In the field of health Bahraini women are not only outperforming men but heading key medical departments in health centres and hospitals. The only private dental laboratory in the country is run by a Bahraini lady doctor.

KOTC fleet competitive, says Bader

THE Kuwait Oil Tanker Company (KOTC) in the recent past has performed excellently from the technical, cost and operational view points, according to the chairman of the board and managing director of the company Abdul Fattah Sulaiman Al Bader.

Speaking to a local daily, he said that the company had successfully passed through the Iran-Iraq war period and to maintain their usual oil loads transport with their shuttle voyages.

He said he believed that oil forwarding costs are expected to increase rapidly during the decade of the nineties due to the growing oil demand and the inability of international oil tankers to meet deliveries.

Bader said that the Kuwaiti fleet of oil tankers now matched the fleets of the best companies in the world in the area of operational cost, which resulted from the reconsideration of oil tankers maintenance. The company achieved a profit of KD 12 million in 1989 due to improvement in the crude oil tankers market, reduction in operating costs and the marginal increase in oil returns.

New tankers

The official disclosed that KOTC is having its aging oil tankers rebuilt and new tankers constructed with high-calibre specifications to meet the expected increase in the world oil demand in the mid-nineties. Existing tankers in the world are around 380 to 400 of which 320 are old tankers built before 1977. The building of new tankers will take about 15 to 20 years, which explains why a rapid increase in the demand for oil is expected during the current decade.

Wildlife zone

A WILDLIFE protected zone of Mahazat Al Sayed, near Taiz city, is considered the second largest fenced reserve in the world, said Prince Sand Al Faisal, the foreign minister, of Saudi Arabia.

The Saudi Press Agency, SPA, quoted Prince Sand, who is also the executive member of the National Council of Wildlife Conservation and Development (NCWCD), as saying the zone will be the nucleus to re-settle wildlife in other similar planned regions in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

LANCILLA

KUWAIT ... GULF

Kuwait to establish modern fishing facility

Failaka, Bubiyan waters to re-open soon

A MODERN facility to serve the fishing sector in the country will shortly be established, according to Adnan Al Roshoud, director of the Fish Resources Department at the Public Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fish Resources.

Interviewed by a local daily the official said that the project is considered one of the vital projects in the country and is designed to mainly solve the country's fish sector problems.

He indicated that a special comprehensive survey will be conducted in the near future around Failaka and Bubiyan islands and after the survey is completed, fishermen will be permitted to undertake fishing in these areas. Additionally, there are many policies adopted by the department to develop fish resources.

Roshoud said that ships inspections are carried out without any prior notice. There are no differences between licences issued

by the department for commercial or professional fishing and further both commercial and professional fishing sectors comply with the same regulations implemented by the department.

Inspections

He pointed out that government support facilities granted to the professional fishing sector in Kuwait are represented by the financial support granted to fishing

boats, maintenance of fishing gear on board these boats in addition to rationalising fishing catches.

Roshoud said that closure of some fishing areas depends on security, particularly after the end of the Iraq-Iran war. Further, he said that comprehensive co-operation has been carried out with Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research in many studies and research areas aimed at developing fish resources in the country.

Radiation protection workshop opened

Diana Abou Haidar
Arab Times staff

CO-OPERATION among international organisations is required to deal with emergency situations caused by over-exposure to radiation or the release of significant quantities of radioactive material into the environment, said Dr Hussain Gezaury, regional director of the Eastern Mediterranean region at the World Health Organisation.

In a message that was delivered on his behalf by Dr Atarod Modjtahedi to the participants of the Regional Workshop on Radiation Protection yesterday, Gezaury said that while strengthening international co-operation in the field of nuclear safety is the task of the International Atomic Energy Agency, WHO is concerned with the health aspects of radiation protection.

"The organisation aims at supporting its member states in their operation of national radiation protection services and in increasing their medical preparedness for handling radiation emergencies," the statement said.

Safeguards

The workshop, which is organised by WHO, IAEA and the Ministry of Public Health aims at reviewing the situation of radiation protection services in member states, and the knowledge concerning the effects of radiation on health. In addition to discussing methods of monitoring radioactivity with particular reference to medical equipment and existing international radiation protection standards and criteria.

"The use of atomic energy for peaceful purposes requires that any person who may come into contact with radioactivity is properly safeguarded. This applies equally to those working with radiation, to the general public, as well as in the case of medicine, to patients. Most countries have set up national radiation protection services with the principal task of ensuring that ionising radiation from whatever source — X-ray machines, accelerators, radioactive sources or waste materials — are used and handled safely," Gezaury said.

Diseases

He added that while knowledge on the usefulness of atomic radiation is being gained, its dangers are also being recognised. "For example, strontium-90 concentrates in the bone marrow, while iodine-131 concentrates in the thyroid and destroys its tissue."

Gezaury pointed out that man has always been exposed to ionising radiation. "Long before its existence was recognised, human beings were receiving radiation from space (cosmic radiation) and from the Earth itself. The amounts have always varied widely depending on where people live. Furthermore, we also know that some plants extract natural radioactivity from the ground and concentrate radioactive elements in their stems and leaves."

He stated that man has always had to live with radiation and the human body has developed mechanisms to repair radiation damage at the cellular level as well as other responses to control both latent and overt effects. "A great change in the pattern of radiation to which man has been exposed occurred with the development of nuclear weapons and their by-products of peaceful uses."

Dr Abdul Rahman Al Awadi, minister of planning and acting minister of public health, who attended the opening at the Mubarak Al Kaber Hospital said that Kuwait has been very successful in using radioactive material in treatment of cancer and stressed the importance of proper and careful use of these methods to ensure the safety of patients and health workers.

The conference will continue till March 15.



Surra Health Centre opens

Planning and Acting Health Minister Dr Abdul Rahman Al Awadi yesterday officially inaugurated the Surra Health Centre. The centre, which was opened to the public on December 9, provided health care services and general treatment to a population of ten thousand.

Conference opens

Greater attention being paid to range resources

By Lima Al Khalafawi
Arab Times staff

THE world today is facing a serious problem reflected in the decline of food production compared to the increased population, according to the Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs, Rashed Al Rashed.

Rashed said during the opening of Second International Conference on Range Management in the Arabian Gulf yesterday that, Kuwait is developing desert and range resources using the latest technology and affirmed the importance of boosting local food output to reduce the gap between production and consumption.

He said that studies should be pursued on characteristics of arid areas and noted that Sheikh Saad and HH the Amir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad had urged paying greater attention to developing desert and pastoral resources.

Rashed said that holding the conference in Kuwait for the second time, March 3-6, crystallises the organising parties' interest in following up fruitful scientific effort and dialogue toward reaching the best means of developing pastures management.

He affirmed Kuwait's keenness on bolstering joint Gulf endeavour and joint work with sisterly and friendly countries in all spheres of modern technology.

Meanwhile, board chairman and director-general of the Public Authority for Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources Sheikh Ibrahim Al Dujai Al Sabah stressed importance of

pasture land for Kuwait since it covers 90 per cent of the country.

The authority has launched incessant efforts in the past five years to enhance pastures management-related activities based on their importance for providing fodder, meat and greenery, he added.

Sheikh Ibrahim regretted that pastures in the country had greatly deteriorated due to various negative activities which almost completely wiped out the area's flora.

In a keynote address on the sustainable use and management of the world's rangelands, F. Busby from Winrock International Institute for Agricultural Development, said that almost no investment has been made to help rangelands in many parts of the world to recover.

He added that soil, water, plant and animal research that is applicable to rangeland management has only been conducted for about 100 years, and site specific research has not been initiated in many parts of the world. There is lack of knowledge of the cultural and social characteristics of most range users.

Busby said that undergraduate, graduate and extension education programmes in rangeland management are few in number and inadequately staffed to prepare students and range users to deal with complex rangeland ecosystems.

Deterioration

The present situation of pastures in the GCC states was presented by N. Ayed of Gulf Co-operation Council, Riyadh.

Saudi Arabia. Ayed said that GCC states fall within the arid and semi-arid area.

He added that approximately twenty per cent of the total area of GCC states is cultivable. Climate is arid and dry with little rain, which falls during the winter season, with high evaporation which sometimes reach 3500mm per year. Terrain in GCC is almost similar, except for some mountain areas.

Ayed said that deterioration of common pastures have resulted from extended drought, excessive grazing, and the ownership of rangelands (no man's land). The total areas of rangelands in the region varies depending on the adopted definition for rangelands.

He added that GCC states have made a noticeable move towards improving pastures, such as building dams, research stations and applying new regulations to protect and maintain pasture areas.

During the second session, a keynote Data address on remote sensing techniques as an aid to the management of arid and semi-arid rangelands was presented by P. Tueller from University of Nevada, USA.

Tueller said that arid rangeland management approaches require considerable expertise. Remote sensing acquired in appropriate ways and cleverly interpreted by trained range managers will serve as a valuable data source. Training in the use of remote sensing techniques is of paramount importance and must be coupled with a high level of proficiency in modern range management techniques.

NHA may re-possess homes from non-Kuwaitis

THE National Housing Authority, NHA, may find it necessary to repossess popular houses in old Jahra area from non-Kuwaiti military personnel to use the land for constructing houses for Kuwaitis, NHA Director-General announced yesterday.

Ibrahim Majed Al Shatin said in an interview that the NHA is faced with an acute shortage of land for construction of housing projects. Present land is enough for the construction of only 12,000 housing units against the projected 28,000 units during the current five-year plan of the NHA, Shatin emphasised. So, the authority will try its best to find alternatives to fulfil its plans. He said that HH the Crown Prince and Premier is paying special attention to this issue and a ministerial committee was formed to follow-up the matter.

Solutions

Popular houses in old Jahra are currently occupied by non-Kuwaiti military personnel employed by the Ministries of Defence and Interior. Shatin said that these houses were rented to military personnel as these are not covered by the authority's housing welfare scheme. He said that the scheme is only for Kuwaitis.

Shatin added that the authority is currently holding consultations with both ministries to find suitable solution to the issue. He said that there are other alternatives like building temporary houses or renting apartments or granting housing allowance. However, he said that after the completion of housing projects in Jahra, Kuwaitis will be asked to vacate their old houses and the authority will provide them to the ministries to use them for accommodating non-Kuwaiti military personnel.

Shatin said that the authority is not facing any financial problems and KD150 million has been made available for the current year's housing projects. He said that the authority may solve part of the land scarcity problem by constructing housing units for Kuwaitis in the new cities of Kheiran and Subbiya. He said that the door is open for Kuwaitis to obtain a housing plot and a loan to construct their own houses in Wafra area. He added that the Higher Housing Council is still considering alternatives to the problem.

Haroun in Iraq

BAGHDAD, March 3, (Kuna): Undersecretary at the Ministry of Higher Education Dr Mused Al Haroun conferred here today with Iraqi Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research Muathir Al Shawi on means of boosting education co-operation between Iraq and Kuwait.

Haroun also met with his Iraqi counterpart Sabri Radis and exchanged with him issues concerning higher education and scholarships within the framework of the cultural agreement between two countries.

Later in the day, Haroun met with Kuwaiti students in Iraq and discussed with them issues pertaining to their studies and the problems they face.

The delegation will leave for Jordan next Monday.



Tanzania President arrives

Tanzanian President Ali Hassan Mwinyi arrived yesterday in Kuwait on a four-day visit. Mwinyi was greeted at the airport by HH the Amir, HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah, Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad and other senior government officials. The Tanzanian President is accompanied by his foreign minister and other ranking government officials. A mission of honour, headed by Public Works Minister Abdul Rahman Al Houli, has been formed to escort the Tanzanian President.

Agnieszka wields her baton with supremacy

Amadeus perform tonight

By Jadranka Porter
Arab Times staff

LONG before Poland was willing to recognise free competition and the rules of supply and demand, Mrs Agnieszka Duczmal (pronounced Agnyeshka Duchmal) succumbed to market forces.

"I follow the rules of the market. If you want the best there is no time to be sentimental. I would do anything to get the best," she stressed.

But when the pro-democracy movement swept Poland she held back. "There is no room for democracy in our business. Everybody has to follow my instructions and one way of interpretation. Only such an approach yields good results." So says the only Polish woman conductor. To prove her point she founded the Amadeus Chamber Orchestra more than 20 years ago. Since then she and her group moved from strength to strength gaining world acclaim. Duczmal, 43, has received an award from a most famous conductor of this half of the century, maestro Herbert von Karajan, who himself was known not only for his genius but also for his dictatorial manner.

Little of that dominating streak is immediately seen in Duczmal, although the first impression does relay commitment and self-confidence.

Modest to the point of being self-effacing the turns every conversation about her success into a discourse about music and art. But to see a true conductor, complete with that authoritarian manner, just ask her about how she maintains high performance standards in her orchestra.

"I scan the market, hold auditions, go to competitions. The minute I find someone better I take them," she says. Only five of



Agnieszka ... world acclaim

the original 20-member orchestra are still with the group. But although she can sound and act tough she claims she is also patient. She has to be since she is in charge of 20 sensitive egos, musicians who each is a kind of soloist.

Orchestration

Among the greatest challenges for Duczmal is to reconcile the interests of the orchestra with those of individual players and the toughest part of her job is to engage in diplomacy the task requires.

"To create good music in a friendly but stressful atmosphere one has to perform a never-ending balancing act," she says. Preliminary screening helps. Duczmal has to be something of a psychologist to select the right people for the orchestra. Their musical capabilities come first but almost equally important is their ability to adapt to the orchestra and work under stress. "Each new addition to the team has to go through a trial period," mandates the conductor.

Helping her to see the players' point of view is her husband Jozef of 21 years, who plays double bass with the Amadeus. "I

cannot imagine life or work without him around," says Duczmal like so many wives before her. And how does he feel about having his wife for a boss? "When we play I forget that she is my wife," says Jozef.

Instrument

Music has always been a family affair for Duczmal. Two of her three children play the cello and violin.

"I don't separate my professional and family life," she says. This attitude stems from her childhood. She was raised in a family of music lovers. A decision to become a conductor came early to her, when she was eight. "For me the baton was the most beautiful instrument" she decided after a concert she attended in 1955. "Ever since then I dreamt of becoming a conductor." But then she already was, in what she says is true — "you don't learn to become a conductor, you either are one or you are not."

Endorsed by Karajan, the only woman conductor in Poland and one of the very few in the world, she still had to be twice as good as her male colleagues, to be accepted by them. Yet, she harbours no bitterness. "I never think of this profession in terms of sex," she says.

But the audience sometimes do. She recalls a time when she felt their suspicion boring into her back. Half way through the concert she felt a change of mood. She knew she won them over. These days, her back mostly registers the warmth of an intense interest. "There is this fluid between me and them. I don't have to turn around to know what they feel," she says.

The Amadeus Chamber Orchestra led by Duczmal will perform tonight at 8 pm and tomorrow night at the Kuwait International Hotel.

Failaka murderer to hang

By Sayed Othman

KUWAIT'S Court of Appeals has enhanced the original life imprisonment sentence of the accused in the Failaka child murder case to death by hanging. The court also supported imprisoning the convict to four years with hard labour on charges of sexually assaulting the victim prior to murdering him and burning the body.

The court was told that the convict identified as Jaber Hussain — 30 years of age, worked for one of the Kuwaiti families on the island. It was further revealed that the convict had sexual relations with the victim on several occasions since the victim was 9 years of age. At the time of the victim's death, he was 15 years of age.

The gruesome crime was reported to the police by the sister of the victim who on returning from Kuwait found the house on fire and the burnt body of the boy behind a door.

Forensic experts revealed that the victim had several wounds on his body which had been caused by a sharp tool and that he was burnt after he was murdered.

Polish fair

KUWAIT, March 3, (Kuna): Minister of Trade and Industry Faisal Abdul Razzak Al Khaled tomorrow inaugurates the Polish Trade Fair in which 32 Polish companies are going to take part.

The companies which represent different industrial, food construction, communications and medical sectors will exhibit their products at the International Fair Grounds in Meshrif for one week.

The fair aims at developing trade exchange between Poland and Kuwait.

Scots offer education opportunities

By Fathima Ahmad
Arab Times staff

THE number of Gulf students at Scottish universities has nearly doubled in the last four years, according to Prof. David W.A. Sharp of the University of Glasgow.

Prof. Sharp is in Kuwait with a group of eight other university representatives to take part in the Scottish Universities Exhibition which opened at the SAS Hotel yesterday.

Prof. Sharp said at Glasgow University alone there are about 150 students, double the number four years ago, from all over the Gulf, mainly interested in engineering, medicine, business administration and undergraduate studies a variety of subjects.

He said Scottish universities are gaining popularity among students from Gulf states due to the relatively inexpensive, but equally good quality education that these universities offer, said Prof. Sharp.

The average cost of undergraduate studies varies, depending on the subject. For example, a four-year course in arts and social studies costs about £25,000; medicine and dentistry, a parent might have to spend between £60,000 to £70,000.

The Scottish International Foundation Programme (SIFP), which has 14 participating institutions, offers the foundation programme for students. Basically, the SIFP prepares students to reach the required standard to join any one of the Scottish universities, tutoring them in English language to ena-



Prof. Sharp ... a chance to succeed

ble them to sit for entrance tests. SIFP director Dr A.F. Cameron said the foundation programme is needed by most students from the Gulf. "Most students go through school, studying in Arabic and many find it difficult to make a transition to any British university," he explained.

Gulf students also have difficulties due to what Dr Cameron described as a "different approach to teaching."

"Due to the approach of education, most students have not been taught how to solve problems and rely on 'memory'," he explained.

Dr Cameron and Prof. Sharp agreed that the universities had a tough selection policy and demanded high standards from students.

"We're not making it easy for them but giving them a chance to

succeed," said Dr Cameron. Proficiency in English language is a must, which if needed is polished by the SIFP.

The Scottish universities don't offer any specific privileges to Gulf students but they get such facilities as the social welfare office, students health centres, and campus accommodation in the first year of studies.

"We are aware of the problems faced by Arab students; both girls and boys study and we cannot change that," said Prof. Sharp.

Dr Cameron insisted that "no attempt is made to influence a student's culture." Studying in Scotland, he hoped, would be a good experience that a student could "put to good use in life."

Asked how they viewed the concept of marketing education, Prof. Sharp said: "Personally, I think for too long educators have confined to what they think is right. What we are doing now is talking to customers — parents — and have become more accessible to them to see what he or she wants for the child."

Representatives from the universities of Aberdeen, Stirling, Strathclyde, Dundee and Edinburgh are also taking part. They are Dr Jeffrey Stone, Martin Davies, Dr Abdel Hadi Fawzi, Mike Masterson and Dr Hillenbrand. The principal of the Morrison's Academy, offering schooling, is also part of the team.

The exhibition, organised by British Council, Kuwait, continues at the SAS today and tomorrow and will be open between 4 and 8 pm.

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MIDEAST

Drug production in Middle East soars: report

WASHINGTON, March 3, (Kuna): An annual State Department report on the world drug production and trafficking shows that global production of drugs has soared in the last year, including the Middle East, as drug traffickers have sought new ways and new markets to beat US-backed enforcement efforts.

The 401-page report, submitted to Congress, shows that drug traffickers have succeeded in corrupting police and other officials in a growing number of countries as the so-called drug-mafias spread their influence in most regions of the world in Africa, Asia, the Middle

East and Latin America.

The most alarming aspect of the State Department report, officials said, was its new world drug production figures. With new intelligence methods — which sources say include spy satellites — marijuana production in a number of countries, including Mexico, is estimated to be 10 times higher than previously thought.

In the Middle East, Lebanon was cited as a major drug producer and transit point. The report said Lebanon needs to do more to co-operate with the US but it was still certified by the Bush administration as "fully co-operating" because it is

Syria that actually controls the Bekaa Valley.

Estimates by US officials indicate that opium production increased significantly in Lebanon in 1989, to as much as 45 metric tons compared with 30 metric tons of opium in 1988.

The annual American drug report notes that Egypt is an important consumer of hashish and heroin produced in the Middle East and in Asia. It is also considered an important transit point for drugs destined for Europe and the US.

In 1989, the Egyptian government toughened its drug laws and carried out

the first execution in many years for drug trafficking, according to the study. And for the first time Egypt extradited a drug trafficker to the US it claimed that some money laundering occurs in Egypt but most profits flow abroad.

Morocco is cited as a major source of cannabis, primarily for European and African markets. It is also considered a transit point for heroin and cocaine smuggling by air from Southwest Asia and South America to Europe.

Syria is cited as a major transit point for illicit narcotics and is considered a heroin refining centre. The State Depart-

ment report charged that "Syria's military controls the Bekaa Valley of Lebanon and profits from its widespread production and trafficking."

It added, "because Syria has taken few actions to stop drug production and trafficking, it was denied certification in 1989."

For the first time in these annual reports, the United Arab Emirates is cited, not for drugs, but for being a major financial haven for drug traffickers.

Cyprus is cited as being "neither a significant consumer nor producer of narcotics."



Palestinian trade unions unite

Three rival trade union groups in the occupied West Bank ended a nine-year rift on Thursday and united in one federation bolstering the goals of the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

"Our objective is to gather our forces and energies to serve our workers and our national economy," said Shaker Sa'ed, (shown above) head of the New General Federation of Trade Unions in the West Bank.

Speaking at a press conference in Arab occupied east Jerusalem, Sa'ed said the merger serves Palestinian workers and the Palestinian national cause.

"The executive committee reaffirms its stand with respect to the basic and inalienable right of our people in establishing their independent state with occupied Jerusalem as its capital and the PLO as its sole legitimate representative," said Sa'ed.

The General Federation of Trade Unions, established in 1965 as part of the Jordanian Federation of Trade Unions, split over political differences in 1981 into four groups, all pro-PLO. (Reuter wirephoto)

Cyprus talks fail: no progress made

UNITED NATIONS, March 3, (UPI): Cypriot President George Vassiliou said yesterday negotiations mediated by the UN Secretary-General have failed to settle the conflict between Greek and Turkish communities in Cyprus.

Vassiliou told a news conference to conclude five days of hard bargaining with his opponent, Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktash, that "no progress has been made."

"We failed," Vassiliou said. He said, in fact, there had been "no talks, no negotiations. There had been a number of meetings that led to nothing because of pre-conditions imposed by the other side."

Vassiliou, leader of the majority Greek-Cypriots, charged Denktash with raising the issue of self-determination and the legalisation of the division of the island from the first days of talks on Monday.

Such pre-conditions were not part of the mandate of Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, who used his good offices to conduct the negotiations beginning in August 1988. This week's round of meetings was the third. Vassiliou met with Denktash and Perez de Cuellar for nearly two hours yesterday afternoon before announcing the failure of the

negotiations. Denktash told reporters upon leaving the UN headquarters in New York that if Turkish Cypriots were not given the right to self-determination, there would be no federation, which is the target all sides have been seeking for the divided island.

Vassiliou said the two communities had already exercised their right to self-determination when they gained independence from Britain in 1963. The following year bloody fighting erupted between the two sides, prompting the security council to send more than 2,000 peacekeepers to man a so-called "green line" dividing them.

In 1974, Turkey sent 35,000 troops to support Turkish Cypriots in the third northern part of the island after a Greek-backed coup d'etat failed. In 1983, Denktash declared an independent state, which was not recognised by the United Nations.

The negotiations mediated by Perez de Cuellar aimed at drawing up a framework draft agreement for a comprehensive solution to the dispute. The comprehensive solution would include withdrawal of Turkish troops, establishment of a federal government and right of movement and properties by Cypriots.

Egypt extremists attack Coptic churches: 15 hurt

ASSIUT, Egypt, March 3, (AP): Scores of fundamentalist Muslim militants stoned two Coptic Christian churches and a youth club in a southern Egyptian town, injuring 15 people, a town official said today.

The state-run Middle East News Agency distributed a report making no mention of those attacks but saying the militants burned a Coptic-owned candy plant, a neighbouring timber depot and four cars.

The town official said the attacks occurred at Abu-Kurkas, 150 miles (240 km) south of Cairo in Al Minya province. Al Minya lies just north of Assiut, which has experienced frequent episodes of violence from Muslim militants for almost a decade.

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said almost 100 militants threw stones in the attacks on churches and a nearby Coptic youth club, smashing windows and slightly injuring 15 worshippers.

He said the assaults came during Coptic prayer services customarily held during a 55-day period of fasting preceding Coptic Easter, which this year coincides with Western Easter on April 15.

The official said police detained 45 attackers and were looking for another 45. Police Maj. Gen. Maher Hassan Ibrahim, Al Minya's provincial security chief, referred questions to the Interior Ministry in Cairo, which is responsible for internal security. The ministry spokesman's office also refused to discuss the incident.

The government news agency report, which appeared to be an Interior Ministry handout, blamed the trouble on "members of extremist groups," the ministry's standard euphemism for Muslim militants. It put the number of detainees at 37.

The agency said militants last week abducted the son of the candy plant owner "on suspicion of having a love affair with a Muslim girl." It said a friend of the son also was kidnapped with him.

The agency identified the factory owner as Saad Habib Sadein but did not give the son's name.

Quoting Interior Ministry sources, it said Friday's arson attack followed the arrest of the alleged kidnappers and release of the captives.

In Cairo, the state-owned newspaper Al Gomhouriya reported the attackers tried unsuccessfully to set fire to the churches. "Security authorities brought the situation under control," the newspaper said without specifying how.

Restive Muslim activists in Assiut province, who the Abu-Kurkas official said belong to the same militant group as those in Al Minya, have carried out similar attacks on Coptic property in recent years.

US bid to calm Israeli anger

WASHINGTON, March 3, (Reuter): The Bush administration yesterday offered Israel guaranteed loans to help resettle Soviet Jews in an effort to calm Israeli anger over tough words by Secretary of State James Baker and rescue Middle East peace efforts.

Baker angered Israel on Thursday by appearing to link administration support for loan guarantees worth \$400 million to an Israeli commitment not to expand its settlements in the occupied territories.

Israeli officials said the statement to a congressional subcommittee severely weakened Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir in his struggle to move forward on Middle East peace and why have wrecked months of painstaking diplomatic work.

In an abrupt reversal yesterday, State Department spokesman Margaret Tutwiler said Washington would support giving Israel the loan guarantees if Israel provided assurances about the use of the money similar to those it already provides regarding its regular \$3 billion in annual US aid.

"The good news, which should be viewed as good news... (is) we were no longer reviewing this, that we were prepared to support it, provide that we had some types of assurances," Tutwiler said.

Asked if an assurance that Israel would not use the \$400 million to build housing in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip would be acceptable, Tutwiler said:

"We would view that as a step in the direction and as a positive."

Baker's statement was markedly different.

"If we provide housing guarantees, we have no assurance whatsoever that the housing guarantees provided will not simply supplant other money that's then used to support settlements in the occupied territories," he said.

But several diplomatic and official sources said the new US language may have come too late to rescue Baker's peace initiative aimed at arranging an unprecedented Israeli-Palestinian peace dialogue.

"It was unbelievable. In half an hour of rash talk, Baker may have wrecked 11 months of patient diplomacy," said one source familiar with Middle East peace efforts.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir attacked Baker's comments on Soviet Jewish immigrants and said Israel may not respond to all Washington's proposals for peace talks with Palestinians.

Baker enraged Israel by saying that Washington was running out of patience and wanted guarantees that Jewish settlement in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip would be curtailed in exchange for US aid for Soviet immigrants.

"If was taken back generally at the timing chosen by the United States government, or the secretary of state, in putting before us an inflammatory idea like this," Shamir said yesterday.

Yemens merger talks March 26

SAN'A, March 3, (AP): The two Yemens will hold their second joint government session in Aden on March 26 to discuss merger plans, it was reported today.

The date was fixed at an informal meeting of the two prime ministers yesterday in the North Yemeni city of Taiz, according to a joint communiqué published in the state-run Yemeni media.

The prime ministers, Abdul-Aziz Abdul-Ghani of North Yemen and Yassin Saeed Noman of South Yemen, have already agreed that a joint budget for 1991 will be drafted and that their two central banks will be unified as part of the merger.

Leaders agreed at a meeting last November to merge their two countries within a year.

Stop public feuds, Khamenei warns

Power struggle denied

NICOSIA, March 3, (AP): Iran's spiritual leader has warned officials to halt their increasingly public feuding in an intensifying power struggle between President Hashemi Rafsanjani's so-called pragmatists and rival radicals.

Ayatollah Ali Khamenei urged: "You must preserve the oneness of your statements, and eschew differing calls of any kind."

"No one must make any move which creates differences," he said in Tehran, addressing personnel of the Islamic republic guards corps.

Khamenei denied there was a power struggle in the Tehran leadership and accused the Western media of falsely "spreading rumours."

He cited "many rumours that have been spread these days by the enemy in our society," an apparent reference to claims by Iranian dissidents of riots in Tehran and other Iranian cities in which opposition groups said 300 demonstrators were killed.

Rafsanjani's pragmatists, locked in a power struggle with the radicals, seek an opening to the West to attract investment and technology.

The radicals, led by former Interior Minister Ali Akbar Mohtashemi, fear heightened contact with the West will dilute the legacy of the late Ayatollah Khomeini.



Khamenei: angered

The power struggle has intensified since Khamenei, a Rafsanjani ally, was chosen to succeed Khomeini after the revolutionary patriarch's death in June, and Rafsanjani was elected president a month later.

The jockeying for power, which Khomeini had often kept in check with his unassailable status as "imam" or supreme leader, has spilled out into the open before. The most recent incident appeared earlier this month over Tehran's call for author Salman Rushdie's death.

But Rafsanjani, who regards the issue as an obstacle to relations with the West, sought to downgrade Khomeini's call for

an imperative to an expression of opinion.

Two days after Iranians marked the first anniversary of Khomeini's Feb 14 ruling, he told Friday prayers in Tehran that Khomeini's edict was only "the view of one expert on an issue of Islamic jurisprudence."

Rafsanjani was immediately rebuked by the head of the judiciary, Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi, who did not mention the President by name, but declared the death call was "an official, judicial command, not just a religious decree."

In a veiled attack on Rafsanjani, the hardline Parliament Speaker, Mahdi Karrubi, last week expressed astonishment at "astounding refrains in our religious circles."

He warned that "obeying the imam means obeying the verdicts and orders issued by him."

Implicitly acknowledging Rafsanjani's statement and the reports, Khamenei warned Thursday that if one person makes a differing statement, "others must not resonate it."

Khamenei angered radicals in January when he warned them not to frustrate Rafsanjani's efforts at revitalising the sluggish economy.

He urged the radical-dominated Parliament to pass the government's \$112 billion five-year plan calling for privatisation of inefficient industries and encouraging foreign investment.

Cairo hotel tent was illegal

CAIRO, March 3, (Agencies): The death toll in a fire that destroyed a five-star Cairo hotel rose to 17 with the discovery of another body, police sources said today.

The badly burned body was found yesterday in the bath of a second floor room in the six-storey Helopolis Sheraton hotel, they said.

The blaze, which raged for six hours, erupted early on Thursday at a clay oven in the hotel's traditional outdoor restaurant.

Maj. Gen. Abdel Negr, chief of the Cairo fire brigade charged that Sheraton officials illegally put up the tent on its grounds. "They are illegal they are fire-hazards," he said.

But Sheraton's director of Middle East Operations, Sami Zogbi, denied the hotel ever was warned about using tents. "If that's true, how come the authorities didn't pull it down?" he asked. "We had fire-fighting equipment, at least 20 large extinguishers in the tent, but the winds were very strong."

Confusion continued over the identity of the victims. The British embassy said one Briton was confirmed dead. The US embassy named the only known American victim as Robert Crease, whose wife is being treated for smoke inhalation. Another three Americans were still

unaccounted for, according to the US embassy.

At Helopolis hospital, Mrs Crease told the Associated Press yesterday that her husband had died. When asked how, she calmly said, "that's what I have to find out."

On Thursday, Mrs Crease said she and her husband had just arrived in Cairo, checked into the Helopolis Sheraton and had not even gone to sleep when the fire began.

"We saw the big flames and went out to the corridor, but there was so much black smoke and we couldn't find the fire exit," she said.

"We knocked on doors and gathered a big group and finally found the stairs, but the smoke was too much. We had to turn back. And then I fainted."

Most of her comments were in writing, because she was too weakened from her ordeal to speak. The hospital's Dr Faiza El Masry said yesterday Mrs Crease's vocal chords still were affected by smoke inhalation.

A French diplomat disputed an official Egyptian report that the dead included eight French nationals. He said there might be three of his countrymen among the dead.

Hospital sources said American pilot Patrick Nelson, who broke his back after jumping from the sixth floor was flown out of the country on a special flight for treatment abroad.



An Egyptian nurse treats Sylvie Favrot from France who survived the fire at Sheraton Hotel in Cairo yesterday. (Reuter wirephoto)

Kunar polls challenge for rebel forces in Kabul and Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan, March 3, (AP): An election yesterday in an Afghan province is emerging as a challenge to both the communists in Kabul and the main anti-communist forces in Pakistan.

The election for control of the local government in the rugged northeastern border province of Kunar is being contested by Hezb-i-Islami and a handful of smaller independent parties. The alliance of six major rebel groups headquartered in Peshawar, Pakistan, boycotted the vote.

Abdul Rahim, a spokesman for the Peshawar Alliance, said, "elections are a mechanism to bring understanding among

all people, but this isn't creating any understanding."

"Without the money that Hezb and the others spent there would have been no elections," he said.

The only other group of any size that participated in the Kunar elections, according to Rahim, was a renegade party of fundamentalist Muslims.

Last summer the fundamentalist rebel leader, Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, distanced his Hezb-i-Islami from the Pakistan-based

Abdul Haidi, of the Hezb-i-Islami Rebel Party, said the two-day election in Kunar

proves elections in rebel-held areas is possible, and Hekmatyar's party will lobby for elections throughout Afghanistan.

Meanwhile, the Peshawar-based alliance is making plans to elect a grand council that will, from exile, claim authority throughout Afghanistan.

The United States has pushed the rebels, wracked by internecine fighting during the past year, to come up with a broad-based administration. The six main rebel groups responded with plans for a loya jirga, or grand council, of about 3,000 people to select members of a government-in-exile.

The existing rebel government-in-exile

in Pakistan has been harshly criticised for its narrow composition.

"If the United States tries to have a government through the loya jirga then there will be two governments — one inside Afghanistan representing the mujahedeen and one living in big rented houses in Peshawar," Haidi said.

"Afghan mujahedeen must unify their ranks if they want to have a say in peace settlement on the Afghanistan problem," leading Pakistani paper said.

It will be only after forging unity in their ranks that the Afghan mujahedeen could seek to negotiate a peace settlement.



Veiled Muslim ladies try to calm a Lebanese woman at a funeral in east Beirut yesterday. (Reuter wirephoto)

Beirutis emerge to survey ruins

US blames Aoun

BEIRUT, March 3, (Agencies): The ultimate church threat of excommunication has brought at least a temporary halt to a bloody war between Lebanon's Christians in which about 800 people have died in the past month.

Exhausted civilians emerged from dank shelters today to survey the ruins of homes blasted by a power struggle between army General Michel Aoun's troops and the Lebanese Forces (LF) militia headed by Samir Geagea.

The United States yesterday blamed Aoun for the latest outbreak of fighting in Beirut and deplored what it called the "slaughter of innocent civilians."

"We are deeply concerned about the resumption of fighting in Beirut. We understand that General Aoun is responsible for this latest outbreak," said State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler.

"We believe that this latest fighting and grievous loss of life underscores the need for all Lebanese to unify behind President Hiriawi," said Tutwiler.

Mohammad Annan adds from Beirut: Nabih Berri, minister of hydro-electric resources in the government of President Hiriawi, has told "As-Sayassah" that the current inter-Christian war in east Beirut will eventually serve Lebanese legitimacy and the implementation of the Taif agreement.

Berri, speaking in an interview, said that France, the Vatican which had opposed the Taif agreement, are now declaring their support for this agreement because they discovered that it is the only solution to end the one-month-long Christian civil war.

Berri, ruled out a military intervention in east Beirut by the Hiriawi government because the army under General Emile Lahoud, lacked the military

equipment and potentials needed to crush the mufidy of Aoun.

The battle for control of the Christian enclave erupted on January 31 when Aoun demanded that the LF disarm and disband. Geagea has vowed to fight to the death to maintain his militia.

Patriarch Nasrallah Butros Steir, head of the Maronite church to which Aoun, Geagea and most of their followers belong, threatened yesterday to excommunicate the Christian leaders who "their troops unless they were united."

Political sources said the latest battles concentrated in the Sin-Affil area, east of Aoun's heavy blow and gained little ground.

"I believe Aoun is finished, militarily and perhaps even politically," one diplomat told Reuters. "They have to find a way out for him. Of course, he may decide to fight on but the army is in bad shape and sick of it."

A senior Christian political leader close to Aoun said the general had to realise he had lost militarily and the battles should stop while a final peace settlement with the LF was negotiated.

Western diplomats speculated that serious peace negotiations would take place in the next week.

They said the Vatican and France had put intense pressure on Aoun to halt the attacks. They said the LF's tenacious resistance had also contributed to the ceasefire.

Beirut's independent An-Nahar newspaper said France was trying to persuade Aoun to step down and hand over the presidential palace in East Beirut to Syrian-backed President Elias Hiriawi, who he had refused to recognise.

Reuters correspondents who toured the battle zone said many people interviewed today cursed both Aoun and Geagea.

China-Iran arms talks denied

BAGHDAD, March 3, (Reuter): Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen, ending a three-day visit to Iraq, said today that reports of recent arms deals between his country and Iran were "completely baseless."

Asked by reporters to comment on the reports, he said talks between China and Iraq had not touched on the subject and were centred on scientific and technological co-operation only.

"The arms trade must be limited within the sale of weapons for self-defence, and must help to achieve stability and peace in the region," he said.

Beijing supplied Iran with silk-worm missiles and other weapons during its 1980-88 war with Iraq.

Qian met Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz and Deputy Prime Minister Saadoun Hammadi for discussions on improving economic relations.

"Both sides had expressed a strong desire to continue relations of friendship and co-operation, despite the presence of some difficulties in the exchange of economic and trade relations," he said.

He did not elaborate but said a joint committee meeting in April would tackle the problems.

Chinese firms last year signed contracts with Iraq worth more than \$50 million, mainly for railways and roads.

Divorce for 'men only' lawyer sells sexism; law unfair

SAN FRANCISCO, (UPI): For Doug Page, sexism sells.

Page, 63, a divorce lawyer in the posh Bay Area suburb of Walnut Creek, openly appeals to men who feel victimized by their wives and angry at the legal system.

"The divorce court, in my view, is a place where the money a man earns is taken and given to a woman," Page says.

From the San Francisco yellow pages to Joan Rivers' guest chair, Page has cheerfully advertised his practice as "Divorce for Men Only" and himself as "men's best friend in divorce court."

Page is quick to mention the bitterness left by his own three divorces and to attack the motives and character of the suburban housewife who demands support from a former husband.

One of his press releases trumpets: "Page abhors the gold-digging, country-club tennis-playing, bridge-luncheon wife who wants life to stay the same after a matrimonial break," and "there is a negative side to women, their bitchy, greedy, savage side that wants to quit working. I specialise in representing men who are dealing with gold diggers. We force them to go to work."

But Page claims he's not actually sexist — it's just that charges of sexism are "good for business."

"Insofar as being called a sexist reinforces my logo, I like it," Page says.

He says he has attracted many clients by taking "inflammatory" positions on talk shows. He uses their words to tell "horror stories" like one about a doctor who owes two wives \$6,000 per month in alimony out of a \$7,000 monthly income.

He says California's divorce laws are unfair to the typical client he sees: a well-paid man with a dependent wife.

"The whole divorce law is based on the assumption that a man or a woman works equally hard to amass a fortune," Page says.

If a woman without a paid job actually backs up her husband, he says, "then she is contributing." But, he adds, "there are a lot of who are ill, who are alcoholics or cocaine sniffers."

He also says the emotional toll of the break up of a marriage is also greater for men than for women.

"I think men tend to suffer alone and in silence," Page says, "and as a consequence they're emotionally immobilised." He says women can recover faster because they have more friends and confide in others more easily.

Page, a former mayor of Walnut Creek, founded Divorce for Men Only in 1982 and now has two partners. Each partner handles about 35 cases at a time, he said. According to a client, Page's services cost \$175 per hour.

The firm's style of advertising may be unique in the United States, according to several attorneys who also say it borders on discrimination. It stays within the law only by offering more quietly to represent women as well.

C. Rick Chamberlin, head of the northern California chapter of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, says a sizable number of men in divorce court think "the system is rolling over them."

Do many men in divorce cases want a lawyer who verges on sexism?

"Yes," says Chamberlin.

One Page booster is client Doug Pendleton, an East Bay police officer who has joined Page on the talk show circuit after three years in litigation with his former wife.

Pendleton's side of the story is that his former wife has harassed him with lawsuits on charges she cannot prove, including a claim that he sexually abused his one-year-old daughter. He said he has been cleared of that charge, but fighting it left him angry at a court system that seemed to presume he was guilty.

"I'm an abused person," he said. "The law's supposed to protect me equally and it doesn't."

But Page's rhetoric is criticised by Gloria Allred, founding partner of a Los Angeles firm that has argued many women's rights cases.

She says Page might as well advertise a preference for clients who are white.

"I don't think gender or race or religion should be used to increase profits," said Allred, who has appeared on talk shows with Page. "He's riding the crest of a shallow response from men: 'we have our rights too'."

Page said he is actually "on the side of independence" for women. But to him, that means women should support themselves with jobs after divorce, demanding less of their former husbands.

Such a view doesn't qualify Page as a feminist to Helen Grieco, executive director of San Francisco's National Organisation for Women.

She says Page fails to take into account the value of a woman's public and private support for a man in a marriage, even if she has no paying job.

Isadora Duncan dances again..

NEW YORK, (UPI): Legendary dancer Isadora Duncan was one of those rare creatures whose personality and private life were probably more dramatic than her performances.

It would be pretty hard to top losing two young children to drowning, having a suicidal Russian poet as a husband who kills himself after their separation, and in the most dramatic event of all — dying herself by having her neck snapped as she wore one of her signature scarves.

Even as a scenario for a ballet, no one would believe the plot, which owes more to Greek tragedy than to *Swan Lake*.

That Isadora is the stuff of which theatre could be made, there is no question. That Martin Sherman's pseudo-comic treatment of her story, *When She Danced*, currently being staged by Playwright's Horizons, achieves that potential is seriously doubtful.

Casting husky-voiced, sensual Elizabeth Ashley as Isadora is inspired because she shares the fading beauty and exaggerated theatrical presence of the dancer.

At various points she describes herself as "fat," "old," "a tired vamp," and "a silly old dancing dervish," all of which seem appropriate in the context of Sherman's play.

The story takes place in Paris in 1923, four years before Duncan's bizarre death and chronicles the events of a single day in her downward skid toward oblivion.

She is broke. She is married to a violent, possibly psychotic young Russian. She is desperately trying to get back to Russia.

Duncan is refused a visa to leave for Russia because of her communist leanings, so she is bent on entertaining a man she believes to be the Italian consul in the hope of persuading him to let her open a school in Italy.

To fund this entertainment, which includes lobster and champagne, she sells her furniture. The dinner party has to take place around a makeshift table. None of the six guests is speaking each other's language.

To recount that the scene also involves a possible hanging and a food fight gives some idea of the chaos which playwright Sherman substitutes for drama.

Adding to the general confusion is the fact that no one can account for Duncan's alleged greatness.

They describe her walking across a stage, turning and walking back. They allude to her affect on audiences who are driven to tears and to naming their first-born children after her. When someone tries to describe what in her performance was so moving, the answer is — there is no explanation.

Perhaps her crazed Russian husband, Sergei, accounts for it best by taunting her with the idea that her art will die with her while his poetry could live forever. It certainly won't, if the one example of his poetry given us is meant to be an indication of his immortality.

Translated by a young Russian woman hired into the household for that purpose, his poem is about a dog that gives birth to puppies and then has to watch as her master drowns them.

FAMILY DOCTOR

By DR ALLAN BRUCKHEIM

CHRONIC PAIN MAY REQUIRE DIFFERENT TREATMENTS

QUESTION: What are the hopes for a person who has suffered chronic pain for so many years now that just looking at another pill is more than I can bear? Even my previous physician is running out of combinations of medications to take and is willing to listen to any combinations. In fact, he suggested that I write to you. Will you please help?

Answer: Although each person has pain in a different manner, it's clear from your letter that you and your physician have fought the good fight, and it's now time to consider possibilities other than just medications. And there is an impressive array of techniques for you to consider, all with records of some success in some people.

Depending upon the nature and cause of your pain, you might consider transcutaneous electrical nerve stimulation (TENS), trigger point injections, acupuncture and nerve blocks to mention but a few. TENS is known to be quite useful for short-term relief of acute pain, but can be helpful in cases of tension neuralgia and people with multiple peripheral nerve injuries. It is an electrical stimulation that diminishes pain signals and requires an experienced technician to help you, for there is a bit of trial and error in determining frequency of the current and placement of electrodes for best results.

When there are well-localised points of pain or "trigger points," destroying the spot of degenerated muscle tissue that's causing the pain with a hypodermic needle can bring relief. Several insertions of the needle may be necessary, and the use of lidocaine may reduce the pain caused by the procedure.

Acupuncture may offer temporary relief, possibly by increasing the level of endorphins (naturally occurring

pain-killing chemicals) in the blood. In addition, behaviour modification techniques, physical therapy, relaxation training, biofeedback, and family and vocational counselling all provide other avenues of therapy to deal with the trials of chronic pain.

There are now more than 450 chronic pain treatment clinics in this country, many of which use a multidisciplinary approach and individuals trained in the areas mentioned above. It may be time now for you and your physician to search out one of the specialised care centres of your area to obtain a new approach for your pain problem.

ACROSS MY DESK: Although most textbooks state and most authorities advise that the patient with chronic heart failure should restrict physical activity, an article in a recent edition of *The Lancet*, a British medical journal provides a new look at this traditional advice. Dr Andrew J. S. Coats and others from the Department of Cardiovascular Medicine at the John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford, evaluated the results when 11 patients with chronic heart failure were provided exercise bicycles to use in a supervised home programme.

Using a one-minute, warm-up period, followed by 20 minutes of exercise, concluding with another one-minute, cool-down session, the patients completed five days of work-out each week for eight weeks. They physical status was compared with their abilities during a similar eight-week period of rest, or restricted activity. Evaluation of the results revealed that the patients had improved fitness, increased tolerance to exercise and diminished symptoms. Although this is not to be undertaken without a doctor's supervision, the experiment may well indicate new strategies for patients with chronic heart failure.



John McEnroe: Is not a typical understanding Pig



Princess Di: born under the sign of the Ox

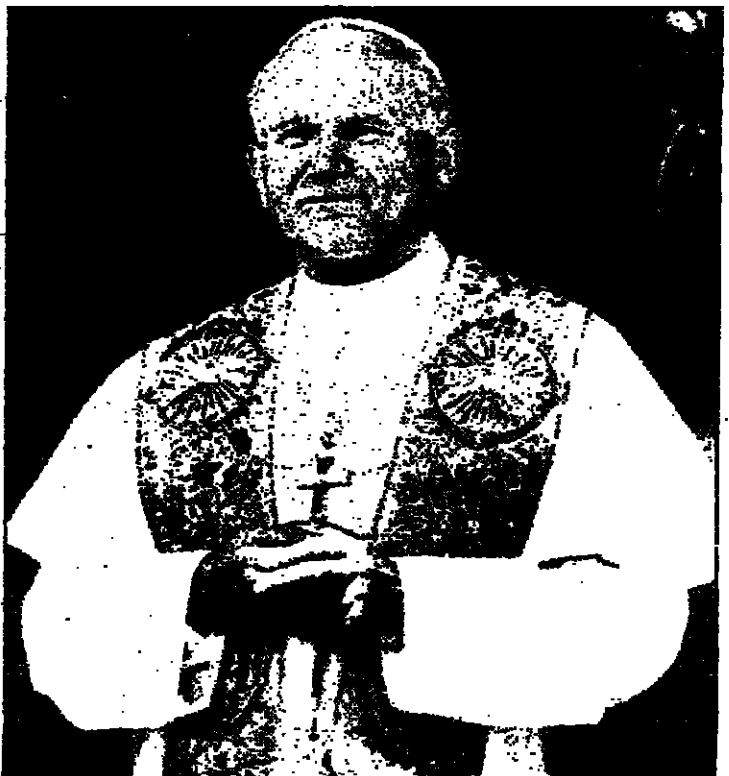


Marilyn Monroe: Tiger-ess

Writer Neil Somerville says everyone inherits some of the personality of the sign they were born under. He lists the best and worst qualities in his new book "Your Chinese Horoscope for 1990".



Hitler was an 'uncompromising Ox'



Pope John Paul: humorous

Rats, dogs and pigs in the Year of the Horse

PRINCE CHARLES is a rat, Sylvester Stallone is a dog — and John McEnroe is a pig, even though he doesn't always act like one!

And unlikely as it seems, Princess Diana has a lot in common with fanatical Nazi leader Adolf Hitler! That's all Chinese astrology. Di and Adolf were born in the Chinese year of the Ox and Oxen have a tough and uncompromising nature. They are also loners who do not like change or travelling.

Writer Neil Somerville says everyone inherits some of the personality of the sign they are born under. Neil, author of several books on Chinese astrology, said: "People born in a specific year tend to inherit the personality of the animal governing that year. For instance, those born in 1989 were born under the sign of the Snake. And Snakes are wise and highly intelligent."

Chinese horoscopes are based on the lunar year which starts late in January or in early February. There are 12 signs in the Chinese zodiac and 1990 — the year of the Horse — started on January 27. The last Horse year was in 1978.

In his new book *Your Chinese Horoscope For 1990* (Aquarian Press, £2.50), Neil Somerville offers everyone the chance to find out what the year holds in store for them.

He outlines the main qualities and weaknesses of each sign and examines how compatible different signs are with each other. He claims Chinese horoscopes provide a good guide to relationships. He told me: "I'm a typical Snake and my wife Ros is a Monkey. If I had been interested in Chinese Astrology when we met, I would probably have tried to work out if our signs were compatible."

"But Chinese horoscopes are really only a guide. Two Snakes, for instance, do not get on very well together because they tend to be rather possessive and jealous. But if I had met a Snake, I would know how to treat another Snake and I would be warned."

Neil, 35, became interested in Chinese astrology several years ago after reading a magazine article. He said: "I looked up my own sign, the Snake, and I thought I resembled the characteristics of my sign so closely that there must be something in it."

"Snakes are very interested in the mysterious, which I am. And they are generally quieter than the other signs. So generally speaking, I think I am a typical Snake."

"I became so intrigued by the subject that I did more and more research and in the end I started to write the books."

No-one knows exactly how long Chinese astrology has been in existence but Neil believes it has been for many thousands of

1990, could be a good time, according to the Chinese — and they should know. Human nature, it seems, can be directly traced to the year of your birth. That's why Princess Di has so much in common with Hitler! Claire Lockhart reports

years. There are numerous legends which explain how the signs got their names. In the most famous legend, the Buddha decided to hold a Chinese New Year party. He invited all the animals of the kingdom. But only 12 of the animals came. And as a present, the Buddha gave each of the animals a year.

Neil, who lives in Reading, Berkshire, with wife Ros and son Richard, believes Chinese horoscopes are relevant to the 20th century. He said: "The other day I was talking to a teacher who said one year the children she taught were particularly boisterous and noisy."

"But the following year the same age-group tended to be more quiet and reserved. And I found out that most of the children in the boisterous class were born in 1976 under the sign of the Dragon. Those in the quieter class were born in 1977 under the sign of the Snake."

Neil admits some of the characteristics of the signs are a little general. But the 12 signs of the Chinese zodiac also have five elements and these have a strengthening or moderating influence on the sign.

During the nine months Neil spent studying, researching and writing the book, he occasionally found a celebrity who was completely characteristic of his or her sign.

"The Pope was born in 1920 under the sign of the Monkey," he said. "And Monkeys are meant to be extremely good linguists. In fact, the Pope speaks many languages. He has also many wide interests and a good sense of humour. They are all attributes that people born under the sign of the Monkey are meant to have."

"Politician Michael Heseltine is also a perfect example of his sign. He was born in 1933 under the sign of the Rooster. I think he is a typical Rooster. He is a meticulous planner, which all Roosters are meant to be. And they also have a tendency to write lists."

"I was reading an article by a college friend of Michael Heseltine and he had noticed that Heseltine wrote lists of all the things he hoped to accomplish

throughout his life — a typical Rooster!"

In his studies Neil also found many of the Royal family were Rats — Prince Andrew (born in 1960), Prince Charles (born in 1948) and the Queen Mother (born in 1900).

Neil explained: "Those born under the sign of the Rat are outgoing and work well in public relations. They are charming and popular, as the Royals prove."

Among those born under the sign of the Goat were Michelangelo and Andy Warhol (born in 1931). So it is not surprising that Goats are imaginative, creative and artistic.

Traits

Famous people who share the characteristics of the Tiger included Marilyn Monroe (born in 1926) and Beethoven.

Among famous Dogs are Sylvester Stallone (born in 1946) and the saintly Mother Teresa. Personality traits of the Dog include loyalty and anxiety.

Rabbits are meant to be virtuous and prudent. Pop star George Michael (born in 1963) and comedian John Cleese (born in 1939) were both born under the sign of the Rabbit.

One celebrity with no similarity to the characteristics of his sign is tennis star John McEnroe, says Neil.

McEnroe was born in 1959 and so he is a Pig. Pigs are kind and understanding by nature and they hate any sort of discord or unpleasantness. And the Pig is well-known for his abilities as a peacemaker. Pigs are usually very popular and rarely harbour grudges and are never vindictive.

"McEnroe, in my opinion, is not a typical Pig!"

In his new book, Neil describes the 12 different signs and makes world predictions for 1990, the year of the Horse.

He said: "Chinese horoscopes deal more in generalisations and trends than Western astrology does. Western astrology is more specific — perhaps too specific."

"In my writing on Chinese horoscopes, I try to be constructive and helpful. So even though a sign might have a bad year ahead, it need not be all bad."

"A lot of constructive things can be accomplished in 1990. Even those signs who do not have a particularly good horoscope for 1990 need not write the year off if they concentrate on the positive things."

"Financially, the start of Horse year tends to be a very optimistic and prosperous time. In fact, in 1954 — a Horse year — the gold standard was reintroduced into Britain after quite a few years. And that represented an upturn in the economy."

So the Chinese Year of the Horse promises to be enjoyable and prosperous...whether you are a creative Goat, a charming Rat or an honest Pig!

'Jun, July, Auguste' — smart winter collection

PARIS, (AP): The big ready-to-wear winter fashion shows don't begin until mid-March, but a new Japanese designer named Jun Inoue jumped the gun last week with a low-key collection of co-ordinates.

Adorable trapeze mini-coats, well-cut buttoned Jodhpur pants, beautiful fabrics and excellent cuts would be good news in any collection for next winter.

Jun Inoue, working under the name 'Jun, July, Auguste', is just the latest Japanese designer trying to make it in Paris.

Kenzo came into his own over 18 years ago. Hanae Mori turned into a "French" couturiere about 20 years ago. Issey Miyake has shown in Paris for years, and Rei Kawakubo stunned her audiences with clothes shot full of holes for "comme des garçons" more than a decade ago.

Opting for a quiet show in the stone-walled cellar of his small boutique near the Louvre that will open officially next summer, Jun was modest but hopeful for a big future in Paris and all over the world.

"Paris is the place to be," said the slight, 37-year-old designer. "I've lived here 15 years, and get my inspiration here."

"I thought he did a wonderful job," said Jean-Paul Gaultier, for whom Jun worked eight years. The way-out wonder boy of French fashion, Gaultier said he liked the details like a shirred mini-dress in soft fabrics worn over a silky turtle-neck under-shirt.

Inoue's small collection was smart and young in every way. He led off with well-cut black cuffed shorts worn with a high-waisted long jacket nipped in by a drawstring with a high waistline, the outfit topped

with a jaunty sailor's beret.

The high waistline, often bucked at the side, was a kind of signature for Jun's leggy look that was always paired with matching or contrasting opaque tights — exclusive productions for Jun — and little flat suede oxfords.

While the gamine mini look was young, there was a lot for women of all ages who want a bit of originality in their closets. The softly belted trench coats, the checked pants suits with narrow Jodhpur-style trousers buttoned up from the ankle could be worn by almost anyone.

Details can make or break a collection, and Jun found some excellent touches. His mother-of-pearl buttons with a dangling pearl to droll up dark blazers and coats are not seen anywhere else.

One dress sure to make a hit was a camisole slip-like mini number with a heavy eyelid embroidered decor on the top and hem, worn with a silky tee-shirt top and contrasting tights. The same eyelid detail on collars pepped up shortie coats with their flared skirts.

The fabrics were soft but warm for winter, the colour combinations autumnal and artistic. Besides navy and black, there were touches of dusty rose or blue, ochre, khaki and aubergine or burgundy, often worked together in appealing combinations.

One of the real originals in the collection was a brown velvet dress shirred around the scoop neckline and at the waist, worn with a silky high-necked algae green shirt underneath.

Berlin's Potsdamer Platz to recapture former glory

EAST BERLIN, (Reuters): Berlin's Potsdamer Platz, once the teeming hub of the old German capital, is to recapture some of its former glory as East and West Germany move closer to a single state.

East Germany plans to transform the area, a wasteland cut in two by the Berlin Wall — the cold war symbol breached last year.

Surveyors began work last week to widen the road there from four lanes to six. The official news agency ADN said the road expansion should be finished in six weeks. Covered walkways and special bus and taxi lanes will follow.

Potsdamer Platz lost its glory in the ruins of the defeated Nazi Reich after World War II. It became part of the border of the soviet-occupied sector of the city.

When the Berlin Wall was built through it in 1961, the square degenerated into a sorry, rubbish-strewn open space.

Since the borders opened last November, Potsdamer Platz has been one of the busiest border crossings. Many Berliners envisage the square becoming the centre of city life that it was in the 1920s and 1930s.

West German car-maker Daimler Benz has declared an interest in part of the square on the Western side and architects and city planners have dreamed up designs involving everything from restaurants to a nature reserve.

West Berlin's ruling Social Democrats, wary about the cost of reuniting with East Berlin, are demanding their city's standard of living should not fall in any merger with poorer suburbs.

The party, which governs the rich western sectors along with a small environmentalist party, said West

Berlin had to help the east battle against goods shortages and a collapsing municipal administration.

But Dietmar Staffelt, leader of the party faction in city hall, said the expected unification of Germany's former and probable future capital should not cost West Berlin its current high level of social and economic progress.

West Germans have become increasingly concerned about unity as it becomes clearer they will somehow have to foot a large bill to bail out East Germany's failed communist system.

Berlin, divided for 28 years along a wall now being sold off in chunks to eager souvenir hunters, is still split by a money barrier shielding the western enclave from East Berlin and the surrounding villages of the old Brandenburg state.

West Berlin workers effectively earn about six to seven times as much as East Berliners. The city, subsidised for decades by Bonn to keep it alive during the cold war, has far better social services than the crumbling East can offer.

Since the borders opened, Berliners out to make a quick mark by bridging the gap between the two economies have developed a lively smugglers' market.

A united Berlin, a city of more than three million people, should be capital of Brandenburg state to ensure it has a taxpaying hinterland, Staffelt said.

Even so, he said in a reference to the poorer suburbs and farming villages that would start making demands on their rich neighbour, "West Berlin would be in a minority."

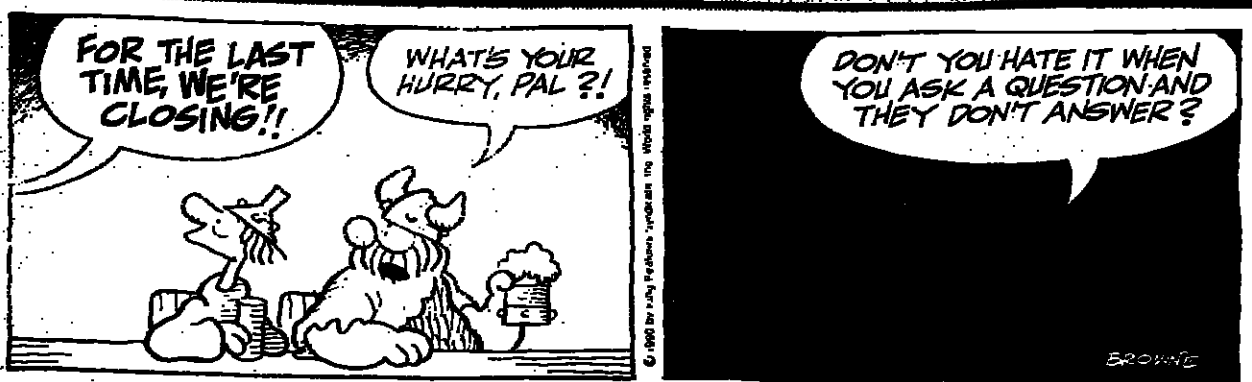
East and West Berlin forged ahead with more of the practical steps that have brought the two sides together dramatically since last November 9.

CEASURE

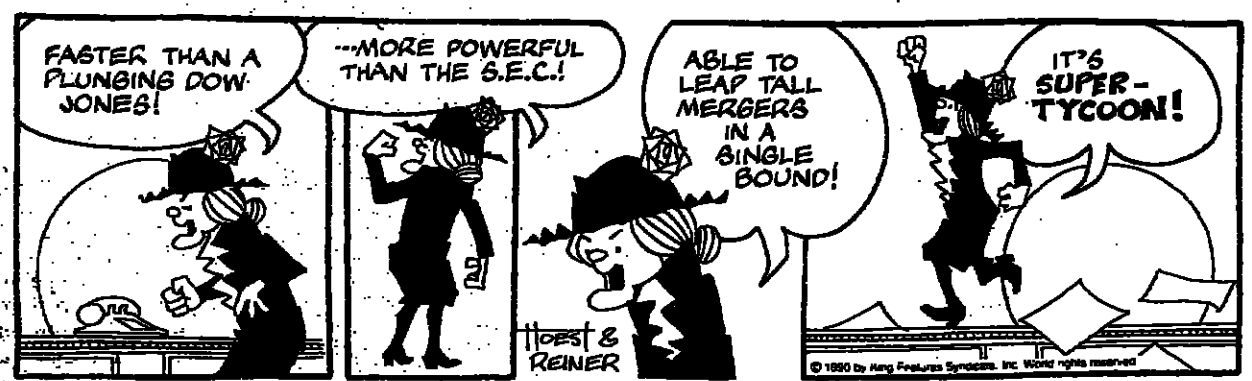
BLONDIE — By Dean Young & Brad Crandall



MACAR THE HORRIBLE



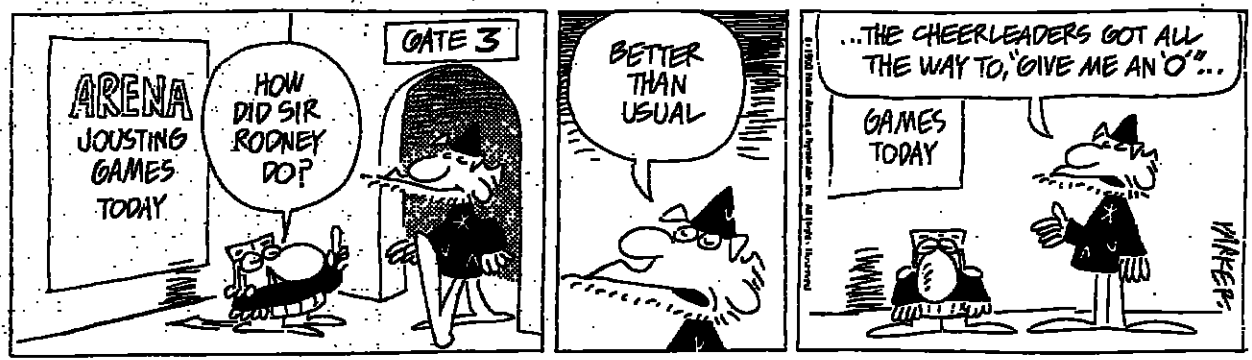
AGATHA CRUM



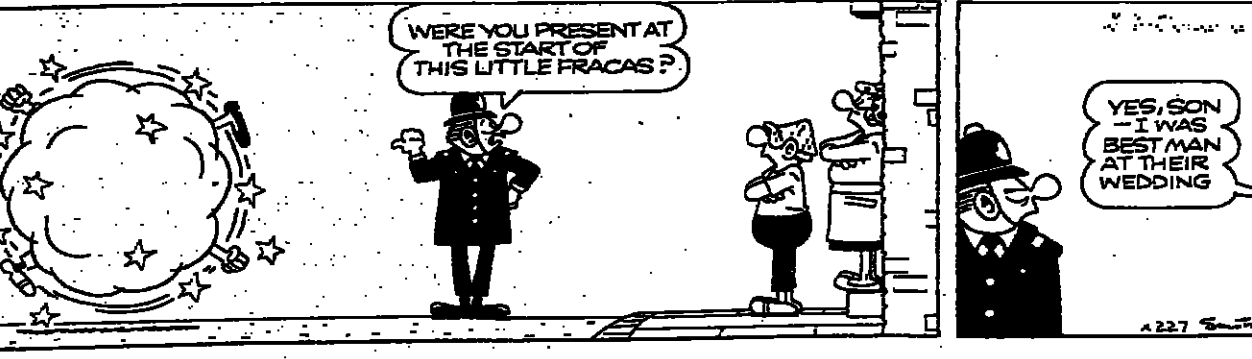
BEETLE BAILEY



THE WIZARD OF ID — By Dean Young & Brad Crandall



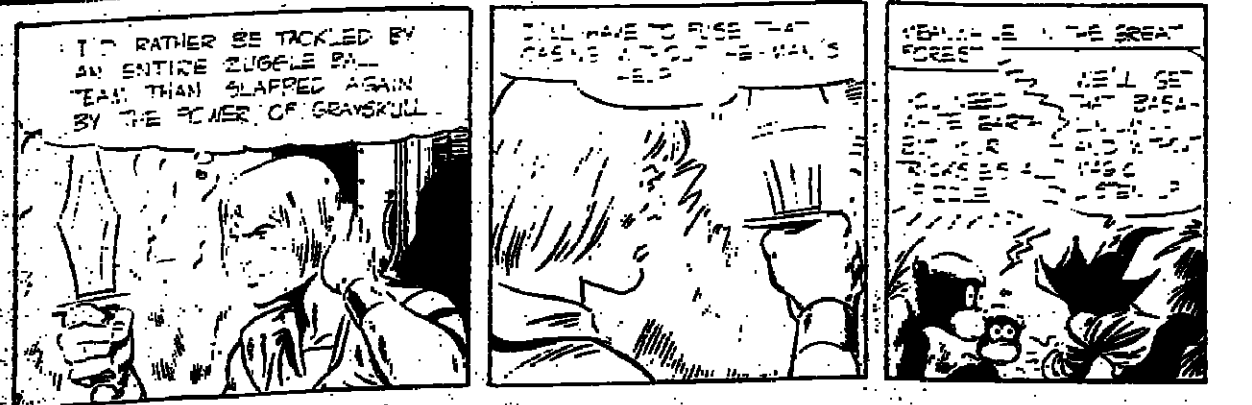
ANDY CAPP



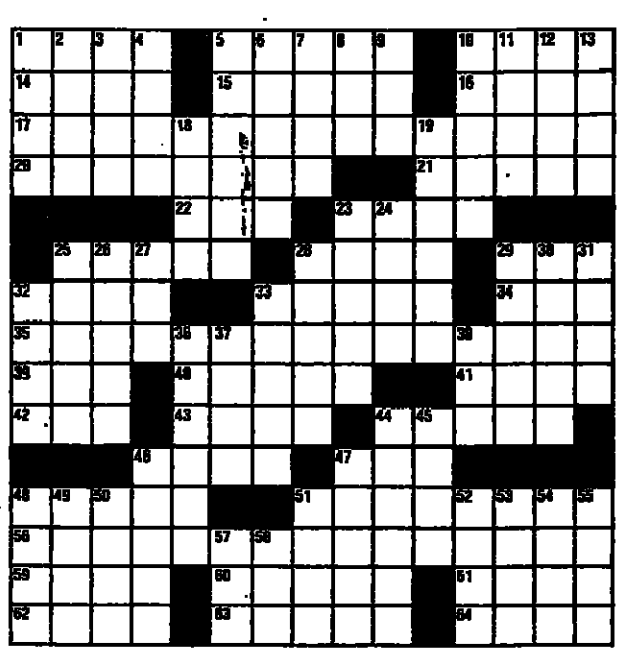
B.C. — By Johnny Hart



HE-MAN — By G. Farrow & J. Shull



TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS
- 1 Umps' relatives
 - 5 Challenges
 - 10 Dealer's car, for short
 - 14 Dash
 - 15 Over-prompt
 - 16 White House office
 - 17 Newlyweds' purchase
 - 20 Sweet wine
 - 21 Stories
 - 22 — Moines
 - 23 Not one
 - 25 Old hat
 - 28 Rhine tributary
 - 29 Mill installation
 - 32 Fine fiber
 - 33 Vicuna's habitat
 - 34 Formerly called
 - 35 Neil Simon opus
 - 39 Long-tailed blackbird
 - 40 More competent
 - 41 Part of a staircase
 - 42 Coal measure
 - 43 Fish delicacies
 - 44 Before
 - 46 Iowa college town
 - 47 "The — of St. Agnes"
 - 48 Entertain
 - 51 Cold weather garb
 - 56 Tchaikovsky favorite, with "The"
 - 59 The cheaper spread
 - 60 Precipitates
 - 61 JFK sights
 - 62 Snug spot
 - 63 Sharp mountain ridge
 - 64 Fuel from a bog
- DOWN
- 1 Cincinnati team
 - 2 Director Kazan
 - 3 Mystery writer
 - 4 Sheridan Le —
 - 5 Irritated state
 - 6 University award
 - 7 Cleaving tool
 - 8 UN affiliate
 - 9 Emblem: Abbr.
 - 10 — Bible
 - 11 Like lago
 - 12 Winning move
 - 13 Corrida cries
 - 18 Composer
 - 19 Rorem and namesakes
 - 19 Emphasis
 - 23 "The Pearl Fishers" tenor
 - 24 Region
 - 25 Serkin's forte
 - 26 Tuckered out
 - 27 Enjoy the slopes
 - 28 Elizabeth's daughter and others
 - 29 "West Side Story" girl
 - 30 Gave a party for
 - 31 Horn sound
 - 32 Shool
 - 33 City on the Rhine
 - 35 Dell dweller
 - 37 Clarinet's cousin
 - 38 Take advantage of
 - 44 Opposed
 - 45 Word on a towel
 - 46 "My Fair Lady" scene
 - 47 Happening
 - 48 Soon
 - 49 Backless slipper
 - 50 Western Indians
 - 51 "The Grapes of Wrath" character
 - 52 Pointed end
 - 53 Seine feeder
 - 54 "— girl!"
 - 55 Trial
 - 57 Southern constellation
 - 58 Vehicle
- ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:
- GASPS SOFA MATT
ULTRA PRIM OMAR
STOOL OSLO MIKE
HIPPODROME OREE
MIEN BACON
WARREN RACH
OLLO ELSE TRAMP
ROTA ROMEO OREL
NEEDY PURR MESA
TARE GREASY
BROKE FRAU
DOOR PALINDROME
ARGO OMAN DAVID
DIEM RAMS EWEND
ACRE THREE RANDY

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
AND THE LEAD IS ...

North-South vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ K 7 6
♥ Q 4
♦ A 7 3
♣ K Q 10 7 5

WEST
♠ 10 5 2
♥ A K 9
♦ Q J 8 4 2
♣ 8 4

EAST
♠ 8 4 3
♥ J 10 7 6 5
♦ 10 6 5
♣ 6 3

SOUTH
♠ A Q J 9
♥ 8 3 2
♦ K 9
♣ A J 9 2

The bidding:
South West North East
1 NT Pass 4 NT Pass
Pass Pass

Opening lead: ?

There are few bridge players who won't empathize with the title of Matthew Granovetter's new bridge mystery, *I Shot My Bridge Partner*. (Paperback, 365 pp., \$12.95 plus \$2 shipping from Granovetter Books, 18 Village View Bluff, Ballston Lake N.Y. 12019.) But if everyone carried through on the title, bridge would have vanished years ago.

This is a better book than Granovetter's first, *Murder at the Bridge*.

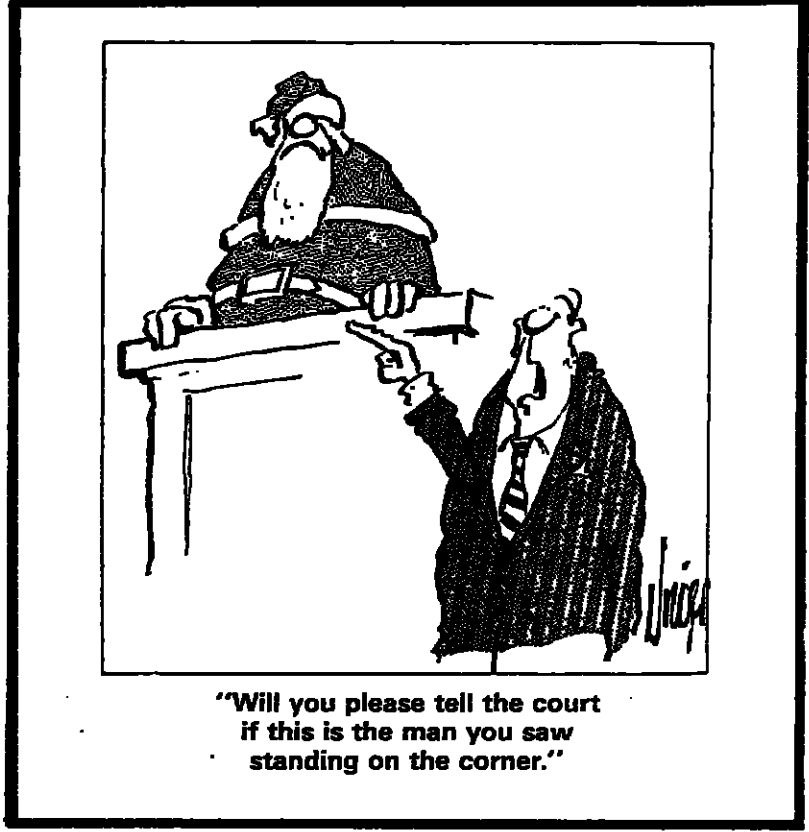
Table. It is written with more humor and the murder mystery is more entertaining. And, again, there is a considerable amount of sage bridge advice. Our caveat, once again, is that we are not sure how well the two mix.

This hand featured in the book is from a Swiss Team event. Cover all the hands except for West, then decide what you would choose for your opening lead and why.

At one table West led a low diamond. Declarer played low from dummy, took the king and then ran five clubs, followed by four spades. On the last spade West had to hold two diamonds and was forced to bare down to the ace of hearts. Dummy came down to Q 4 of hearts and ace of diamonds, and declarer simply exited with a heart to set up a 12th trick.

At the other table, West led the king of hearts. Since the North-South bidding showed about 30 HCP and West held 10, East was marked with virtually nothing. Therefore, West hoped to hit a long suit and was well rewarded. The defenders took the first five heart tricks.

The book is spiced with characters, real and imaginary, you will recognize. Worth a look.



YOUR STARS

Aries
March 21 - April 20

You will be glad you have not quite forgotten a skill you hardly ever use nowadays. If you pretend to know what you do not, you will be found out and it will be bad for you. Avoid being untidy. Be moderate.

Cancer
June 21 - July 20

Avoid being annoyed with yourself for getting something wrong. Instead just try not to make the same mistake again. Do not do anything to diminish the harmony with your partner. Be helpful.

Libra
Sept 23 - Oct 22

There is a risk that you may be playing with fire: do your best not to. Make sure you do not take any risks with your health. However do not think that every single thing is bad for you. Be considerate.

Capricorn
Dec 21 - Jan 19

You will be able to make good progress with a personal project. There is not time to all you would like to do so make sure you get your priorities right. You should listen more attentively to what others are saying. Be conciliatory.

Taurus
April 21 - May 20

You will tend to be rather forgetful and should not rely too much on your memory. You should make sure you do not create complications for yourself. Do not allow your emotions to get out of hand. Be tactful.

Leo
July 21 - Aug 21

If you try to rush things you will end up having to do some of them again. Try to set your children a good example also where money is concerned. Think twice or more before making a decision but do not sit on the fence. Be moderate.

Scorpio
Oct 23 - Nov 22

You will have some doubts but later on you will be able to overcome them. Do not insist on having your own way in all things. And avoid trying to do too many things all at once. Be sensible.

Aquarius
Jan 20 - Feb 19

A decision you made earlier will prove to have been right. However you should not be too keen to say "I told you so": you could easily have been wrong. Make sure you do not do anything your partner would not approve. Be fair.

Gemini
May 21 - June 20

Not everything is as it seems to be and you should allow a bit of room for doubt. Your lucky numbers are 18 and 24. There is no point in trying to make excuses, admit it if you have done something wrong. Make sure you get enough exercise, nothing too energetic.

Virgo
Aug 23 - Sept 22

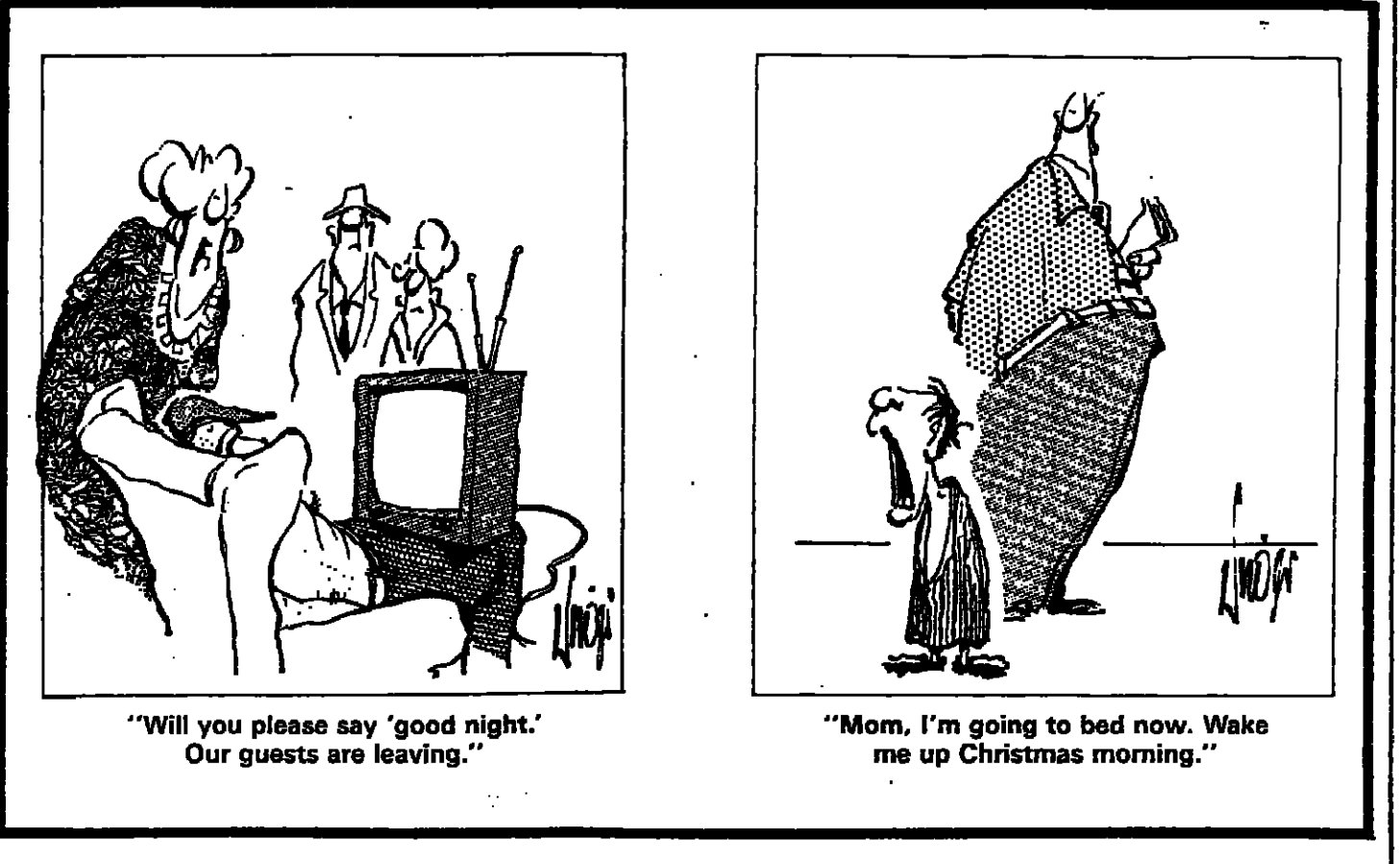
You should not rely on your own mechanical knowledge unless you have learnt to be expert in that field. Avoid getting into an argument or cut it short if you do. If you place too much reliance on guesswork you will be in trouble. Be patient.

Sagittarius
Nov 23 - Dec 22

There will be a temptation to spend far more than you can afford. Nor should you rely too much on credit. Take your mind off work for the day. Be more abstinent.

Pisces
Feb 20 - March 20

You should be on the lookout for mistakes, both yours and those made by others. Make sure you stick to limits of safety. Do not rely on others to get out of your way and do not get into theirs. Be less volatile.



"Will you please say 'good night.' Our guests are leaving."

"Mom, I'm going to bed now. Wake me up Christmas morning."

SNIPPETS

3 Picop men killed in ambush

THREE forest rangers of the Paper Industries Corporation of the Philippines (Picop) were killed and five were injured when they were recently ambushed by unidentified heavily armed men inside the company concession at Bayugan, Rosario, Agusan del Sur, the paper firm reported.

Dead on the spot were Elias Labo, Roy Hadman and Eulogio Tubigon. The men were on their way to confirm a report of a straffing incident in the Picop detachment station when attacked last Dec 15, Picop said.

Top company officials believed that the attackers, numbering about 50, were New People's Army (NPA) men who took advantage of the pullout of Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) personnel from the area to Davao City in response to threat of a coup attempt in Mindanao.

Picop president Evaristo M. Narvaez Jr described the incidents as "an unfortunate tragedy" in the area which had been recently struck by an earthquake measuring 7 on the Richter scale.

Injured were Rosencio Galon, Wilfredo Briz and Rodrigo Adranas due to land mine explosions and the firefight that ensued. Two members of a reinforcement team were hurt, Victoriano Tan and Archibald Annon.

Acquitted

A MAN who had been sentenced to life imprisonment for rape has been ordered released by the Supreme Court.

In acquitting Ricardo Hizon of the rape charge filed against him by a deaf-mute, the High Tribunal said: "If, indeed, Hizon raped the girl, he nevertheless must be absolved because his guilt had not been proved beyond the shadow of a doubt."

On Jan 25, 1976, a girl alleged that Hizon raped her in one of the booths of a carnival in Calocan City.

However, the girl did not report the alleged rape immediately nor did she inform her mother about it, records showed.

She only opened up after almost three months when her miscarriage was discovered, records showed.

The girl later admitted she was afraid of Hizon but could not explain why. She said Hizon did not threaten her to prevent her from reporting the alleged rape to the police officer or to her parents.

Associate Justice Isagani Cruz said an accused is presumed innocent until the contrary is proved.

"There was no medical proof of the rape itself, not was it shown that the complainant had been forced or threatened to submit to her alleged attacker," Cruz said.

And in defending Hizon's failure to deny the charge against him when he was investigated by the police, Cruz said the judge erred in construing silence as evidence of guilt.

"The accused appellant had the right to remain silent during his custodial investigation if he preferred to make his denials at another time. And such silence should not have been taken against him," Cruz explained.

Recruitment agency banned: Labour Sec. Ruben Torres

banned for life a recruitment agency which had failed anew to deploy workers abroad after collecting fees from them.

Torres said Servex Manpower Services demanded P5,000 from Danilo Navarro, P3,000 from Mario Catapang and P10,000 from Victoriano Poquita Jr, in exchange for jobs abroad.

Although the usual penalty for the offense is a four-month suspension or P40,000 fine, Torres said Servex had been penalised several times before with suspensions totalling 18 months.

Torres ordered Travellers Insurance and Surety Corp., Servex' surety company, to reimburse to the complainants the amount collected from them.

Torres also dismissed for lack of merit an appeal of RSI Employment Service for the lifting of the suspension of their license.

RSI had allegedly collected a placement fee from Dominador Pradia but failed to obtain overseas employment for him.

Wage commission formed: President Corazon Aquino

assured labour leaders that she will form the National Wage Productivity Commission (NWPC) by the end of the month.

In return, the labour leaders led by the Trade Union Congress of the Philippines (TUCP) presented recommendations to the President for improving the life of workers.

Among the recommendations were strict enforcement of minimum wage and other labour laws and the extension of price control on basic commodities.

The labour leaders also recommended condonation of income taxes for 1989 and 1990 for households with an aggregate monthly income below P6,700, increases in personal tax exemptions, a moratorium in increases of real estate taxes and an intensified housing and apartment programme for low-income households.

Also at Malacanang, Agriculture Sec. Senen Bacani recommended to the President the importation of P 200,000 metric tons of rice for distribution to rice-deficit areas.

Press Secretary Tomas Gomez III told newsmen the imported rice will arrive between May and mid-August.

Diploma mill raided: The National Bureau of Investigation

(NBI) raided a store selling fake school diplomas and birth certificates. The NBI raiders led by anti-graft section chief Conrado Benzon swooped down on the RJG Gen. Merchandise at the corner of Lepanto St and Recto Ave., Sampaloc, Manila.

They seized bundles of fake Torres High School and Polytechnic University of the Philippines diplomas, transcript of records and Commission on Elections (Comelec) voters' identification cards.

One of the arrested, Joey Pineda, 23, told the NBI that the store has been selling high school diplomas for P1000 each and college diplomas for P250 each.

Provido also admitted that they sold fake transcripts of records, birth certificates and Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) test results.

The NBI found out that RJG Gen. Merchandise is owned by Roberto Garcia.

Principal suspended for molesting boys: Education

Secretary Isfor Carino has suspended Valenzuela High School principal Joel San Luis after the Parents-Teachers Association accused him of sexually molesting at least 11 male students.

In a letter-complaint to Carino, the PTA said San Luis has been molesting male students since he assumed office in June 1989. The students, who requested anonymity, told newsmen that during an overnight stay at the school campus last Nov 8 and 9, San Luis even ordered them to take off their shirts before he started touching them.

Carino designated assistant principal Saturnina Bulan as officer in charge of the school. Carino also asked DECS legal adviser Amado Dizon to form an investigating panel.

French perfumes seized: At least 1,000 bottles of French

perfume worth some P10 million were seized by Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) customs officials for being declared as personal effects.

NAIA customs collector Zapiro Respcion told newsmen the perfumes arrived on Jan 4 and were consigned to one Haroka of the Tower Building, Salcedo Village, Makati.

Also at the NAIA, customs intelligence head Rodolfo Buendina denounced 7 Marines manhandling him in the arrival area while he was on surveillance.

Buendina said he introduced himself as head of customs intelligence. "Pero hinawakan ang mga kamay ko at pinilit."

"Hindi ko malaman kung ano ang ibig palabasin ng mga Marines na iyon," Buendina added.

About 100 Marines who had been relieved from the airport by then Manila police chief Maj. Gen. Alfredo Lim, when he was appointed as President Aquino's personal representative, have been reinstated by NAIA general manager Eduardo Carrascosa.

Jail inmate caught selling dope: An inmate was caught in the act of selling marijuana cigarettes to detainees inside the Manila City Jail recently.

Romulo Mardo, 27, a Batang City Jail gangster detained for murder, of 1357 Juan Nolasco St, Tondo, Manila yielded 21 marijuana cigarettes wrapped in torn pages of the Bible to jail warden Perry Herrera.

Inmates told Lieut Rogelio Soriano Mardo has been selling marijuana cigarettes to them for the past several weeks for P5 each. Mardo pointed to his live-in partner as his marijuana supplier.

"Nakabalot sa panyo at inilagay niya sa loob ng kanyang panty kaya hindi siya nahuhuli ng mga guardia."

Mardo has been detained since 1983.

Remember Chuchay... and Maureen and Lino and Josie and...?

By Behn Cervantes

MOST of my memories revolve around my college days. Memories of friends and acquaintances when they were very young!

I recall the U.P. of the late '50s, when the campus was green and Diliman seemed so far away. There was no traffic. Highway 54 was dangerous at night. However, there was no pollution. Only a handful of university students had cars. The rest of us took advantage of the trees and the grass and took leisurely walks around the campus. Ate habuhalo at Little Quiapo.

Dance music was sweet. Glenn Miller was fast. Lyrics were understood. Progressive jazz was in. Girls dressed up to the nines daily. Guys used Yardley pomade and beautiful coeds did turn the heads of young men as the soap ad claimed.

The Philippine Collegian had two society columns that documented who was seen where and with whom the previous weekend. Girls who smoked were considered modern. One of the columnists was campus figure Rita K. Ledesma (Gonzales). Her mother, Purita, was the moving spirit behind the Art Association of the Philippines. Rita had a popular singer in Maryknoll named Connie, who now resides in Utrecht with her husband Louis Jalandoni.

No doubt the most outstanding university coed was gorgeous and brainy Josie Trinidad (Lichauco) who was muse of practically every prestigious organization. Corps sponsor, too. Twice yet.

Another stand-out was ballet dancer Maureen Tingo, who not long after, went to Broadway as a chorus girl in *Flower Drum Song*, before taking over the lead role.

We freshmen had to be satisfied with an occasional glimpse of these campus belles because they were often in the company of "old" Upsilonians or College of Law students.

The prestigious U.P. Dramatic Club under the guidance of Freddie Guerrero attracted many an ambitious would-be thespian. Many tried out but few were chosen. Those with clear American (La Salle) or British (Ateneo) accents had the edge.

An 88-lb. student from Neuva Ecija tried out. He brought the house down when he dramatically read the audition piece and declared, "Murder, Murder, look at dat gel wearing a batting shoot."

He ended up working backstage despite the fact that he thought he resembled Montgomery Clift. Years later, he became Linn Brocka.

Another applicant attracted attention everywhere he went in U.P. because he wore clothes that astounded the staid students of the time. Not only did he constantly crack green jokes, he wore orange shirts with violet pants. He wore paisley when no one else knew the meaning of the word. He wore collared tops and lace. Satin and brocade. See-through T-shirts. Sandals! He was way ahead of his time.

Fashion-wise, after acting, he turned to painting. Then, to poetry. Soon, he combined the two. After that, he authored a novel. Then, there was a gospel column. (He got incarcerated for that.) Then came Astrology Science of the Mind. Now, he is into religion. His own. His Name? George Sison.

Joonee Gamboa was shy, gangly and overly tense. Sometimes, he sounded constipated, but his (British) accent was perfect. Impeccable. After all, he spent hours with his good-looking brother Arthur listening to tapes of Olivier, Gulland and Redgrave. Vivacious Mary, their *morena* sister, had the flair and the talent. Only Joonee persevered. However, to this day when we talk about the truly talented, Mary's name comes up.

The truly good-looking, Arthur. The most stunning new coed of my time was so ravishingly gorgeous, she would literally stop traffic. She was an American *mezita* from Schenectady who came to study here and reacquainted herself with her kin from Quezon. Her hair was chestnut brown. Short and near. She often wore green, which accentuated her hazel eyes and the red lipstick that was in vogue then made her luscious lips all the more inviting. She was chosen muse of this, that and whatever organization had the nerve to approach her, or had a connection to her cousin, Bibsy Carballo.

Before long, she was modelling for the best Manila designers and hosting the first musical show on television. She went back to the States, married Broadway composer-lyricist Bob Merrill, best known as the creator of *How Much Is That Doggie In The Window?* She inspired him to write the evocative lyrics of *People*. Dee Marquz remains one of the legendary beauties of the '50s alongside Cynthia Sun, Deanna Jean Lopez and Clauday Tazon.

Chuchay was a stunning look-alike for the young Joan Collins, so the U.P. guys would sit up when she walked by in shorts on her way to a game of golf. Her tan and her way of walking indicated a nonchalant acceptance of her wondrous looks. She knew she was sexy, too. We all thought we had a Miss Universe finalist in her when she won the local title, but for some reason she never tried her luck in the international contest.

She is also known for having been the first one to have been kissed on the lips on the U.P. stage. It was accidental, but busser Donnie Montelibano was smiling from ear to ear after that fortunate slip.

A friend nicknamed a coed who wore her long hair in a pigtail Minehaha. Economics was her major. She was a scholar and quite a livewire. She didn't smoke then. She does now. Like a chimney! Her name? Winnie Collas Monod.

Her suitor, Christian, was also inspired to write lyrics because of her. In *The Hasting Evening Hue* from *Interior 14*, an original Upsilonian musical, is still sung by aging Upsilonians during reunions. Ardent interpreter of the song which I introduced to the world is Maning Rivera, who readily renders the number upon the prodding of mature Sigma Delta's like his wife Juliet Lazo.

Also in *Interior 14* were Vic and Nanette Puyat. Working backstage were hulks like Tony Rosales and Rene Dragon. While they remain friends, they are politically poles apart.

When we did Shaw's *Mrs Warren's Profession*, the cast, which included Jun Roy, Pinky Rigor (Farolan), George, Joonee and myself, had a very diligent prompter. He was interested in the European languages and, later on, he went to France on a scholarship.

Upon his return, he taught French in U.P. Then, he opened *Grey November*, which became one of the "in" cafes of the late '60s. Later, he went to India to study film. His first movie, *Pagdating sa Dula*, proclaimed his promise. Now, he is the Ismael Bernal.

U.P. Student Catholic Action also went into dramatic productions, like *Madea* where I was cast as Creon. An up-and-coming young film actor from Ateneo was playing Jason. The eager director insisted I play the role in a manner I found odious, so I walked out. The actor continued to become a success. He was Robert Hagan. *a.k.a.* Robert Arevalo.

Two U.P. high girls also got interested in acting. One was in the chorus of *Oedipus Rex*; the other appeared in *Tidings Brought to Mary*. Both were into English literature then. Much later on, the social conditions got them involved in matters political. The former, Bobbie Malay, is now in Camp Bonifacio with husband Satur Ocampo. The latter is Etna Vargas Rosales, whose father was naval attaché in Washington D.C. and died a commodore.

Playing the shepherd finally coerced into revealing the secret of Oedipus was an Ateneo student from the north who sported a thick British accent. We secretly laughed at his attempt, although it wasn't as funny as the veddy, veddy amusing version put on by Jose David Lapis. The Ilokano gave up acting and went into serious political writing and organizing. The writer? The organizer? The would-be actor? Jose Ma. Sison.

After college, I went to the States. In the University of Hawaii, the theatre aficionados were all agog over the natural talent of a bosomy Jewish girl who sang with verve and acted as though her life depended upon it. After she changed her style of singing, which was similar to superstar Barbra Streisand's, she became the Queen of the Baths in New York. After that gay but cleansing experience, she evolved into the phenomenon now known as Bette Midler.

When I returned to teach, I was truly impressed with the dedication, precision and drive of a good-looking Masscon.

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Josie Trinidad



Cynthia Sun



Joonee Gamboa

The 90's trendsetter

Sonny Laragan

YEARS before, he was simply Sonny Laragan, news editor and radio newscaster.

As of last year, he's whimsical, lighthearted, unpredictable, openminded, unfettered, spur of the moment, funny, off the cuff, Sunday morning easy, at one with nature, free wheeling, easy to get along with, relaxed, smooth sailing Sonny.

You have to be pretty, smart and witty to be a radio announcer, and Sonny Laragan is rapidly cornering the market via his "Late Night Radio Show" on DWIZ (88.2 kHz AM). As host of this unconventional radio program, which airs from 9 pm until midnight or weeknights, Sonny gets to advise listeners who phone in, interview interesting personalities, give out prizes through contests, and just be the amusing person that he is. Things such as these have made the program so popular that Sonny has become an overnight campus celebrity with coeds comprising most of "Late Night Radio Show" listeners.

Due to Sonny being a creative individual who has always liked to do concepts that have never been tested on Philippine radio, he came up with the programme on DWIZ. The show's concept sounded weird when he first proposed it but as Sonny puts it,

"You start with something weird and eventually catches people's attention." Which he did and still does.

The greatest idea he has come up with is being called "One of the world's sexiest and most romantic radio announcers." This can be heard almost every thirty minutes in Sonny's program. The logic behind this is that the listeners—who are mostly females—have to get interested in him and his show somehow. The title was supposed to be an attention-getter. And it worked. No doubt about it.

When asked to describe "Late Night Radio Show," Sonny clears his throat before letting "er rip."

"It's a modern talk show," he starts. "When you speak of talk shows, you speak of Inday Badiday, Tiya Dely or Kuya Cesar. You see, there's a market. Why do advertisers say this is for teens? Why do we have Close-Up, Cinderella or other stuff strictly youth-oriented? Well, advertisers say that the youth is the biggest share of the market, especially students. And they're right. So, I thought of a program which could also attract the A and B crowd down to C, D and E. This is AM radio we're talking about here. In FM, you're pasosyal—I'm looking for caller number five. Call us up right now and guess the title of the song. I analysed the fact that the only time a listener and a DJ get to talk is during a contest. You know, Congratulations. You just won for yourself a gift pack from this and that." After that it's all music. On AM radio, it's like "Tawagan nation ang mobile five mula sa labas, mobile five, come in" and so on. We also have religious programmes, soaps or drama on AM."

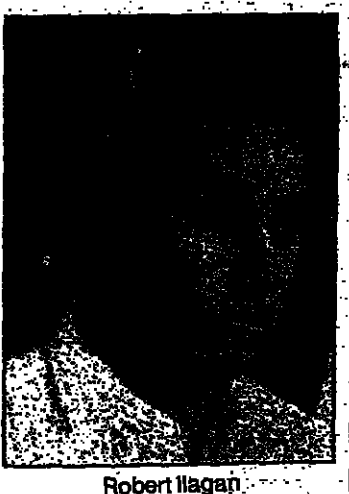
Eventually, Sonny's extremely creative mind which never stops coming up with new and weird ideas conjured a modern talk show that would only cater to AM listeners. At first, our sexy and romantic announcer admits he wanted his show to be on FM Radio. But he has a good reason why he stuck to AM.

"When you say FM, it's synonymous to music," explains Sonny. "So, I ended up in AM with 'Late Night Radio Show' that really caters to people who are left unconcerned. There's a lot of pasosyal in us. And I guess one of the reasons listeners love the show is the way I'm always lively and bubbly like 'Okay, twenty minutes after four, if you'd like to call us up.' It's lively. That's how my presentation is. New listeners would go, 'Hey, okay it's a FM sound on AM.'"

One concept of Sonny's show is that practically anybody could call in and be on the air, conversing with Sonny. "On AM, it's usually, 'Isang napakagandang bilang ang naihatid namin sa inyo, ang tamang oras ay...'" It's too Tagalog or Pilipino. My show is the only one on AM that's like "Hi Who's this? Hi, Rick. What can I do for you?" The guy on the phone would go, "Well, I just broke up with my girlfriend" or something like that.

In "Late Night Radio Show," the listeners and I could talk about anything under the sun. It's a talk show with a sort of a magazine format.

Sonny is also a one-man army in the sense that he's the marketer, writer, producer, director, writer and the talent behind the show. "I'm like a business entrepreneur right now. When I was analysing about coming up with a nighttime show, I studied surveys. I noticed that DWIL, DZMB, DWFM, etcetera are strong in the mornings until around 6 pm. From that hour on it's NU107, DWLS or DWFM rating in the surveys. I noticed a pattern. In the 'Late Night Radio Show' was born."



Robert Ilagan

Isay comes home

ISAY Alvarez of "Miss Saigon" and "Magsimula Ka" fame, arrived February 9 fresh from London. She is home for a vacation and was invited to sing in Ballet Philippines "Rama, Hari" which is Programme III of the three-part "Alice Reyes Festival of Dance."

Isay will be essaying the role of Sita, wife of Rama. She will be performing together with Bimbo Cerrudo, Ayan Mimi, Miguel Vera, Reuben Laurente, Bodgie Pascua, Joseph Gelito and Celeste Bueno.

"Rama, Hari" is the story of Rama and Sita and their encounter with the demon god, Ravana and his equally evil sister, Suropanakha. Infused with Alice Reyes' invigorating choreography, Ryan Cayabyab's music and Biezenardo Lumbera's libretto, "Rama, Hari" is still as fresh and timely as the first time it was shown.

Made in cooperation with San Miguel Corp. Holiday Inn and Sars, "Rama, Hari" will have performances on February 2 to 25 with matinee and evening shows at the CCP Main Theater.

A 1985 Awardee, as the "Most Promising Entertainer of the Year," Isay has had extensive training and exposure in singing and dancing. She has done hosting stunts for television and has recorded a song in 1987 entitled "Where Love Has Gone."

Before she went with the "Miss Saigon" cast to London, Isay had established a name for herself via the musical "Magsimula Ka" which premiered in 1983 at the Cultural Center of the Philippines.

Kuh Ledesma

COULD it be a decade since a sultry young singer finally burst into public consciousness in a big way with her stirring rendition of Don't Cry for Me Argentina? By then, she had already acquired a fanbase following at the Alibi Bar of the Century Park Sheraton, where nightly she captivated audiences with her passionate singing, backed up by a band called Music and Magic.

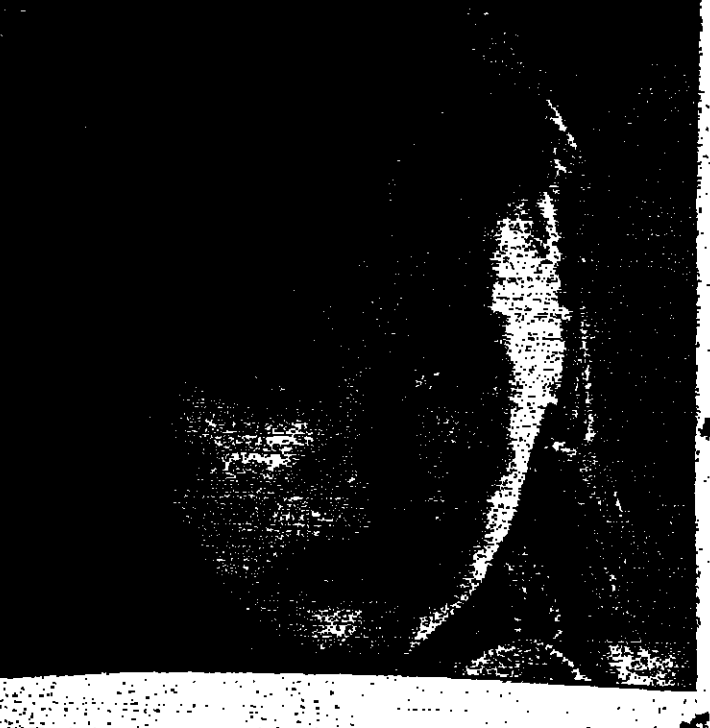
Touching on her early days at the Alibi Bar, Kuh argued, "Young stars today want to be big right away. They cut a record, launch it in a concert, — tapos gan'ap na. I think it's better to develop a market for your performances. Yung nakapuwerto is sa isang lugar, para alam ng tao kung saan ka inuunapin. The audiences get to discover your talent first hand, and word-of-mouth about it spreads."

"It's very healthy for a performer to experience having steady concerts more often. Your talent is really honed and you get to learn from your audience, you develop in relation to them. There is no substitute for it." With her own experience in mind, Kuh organized the Music Museum two years ago. The Greenhills restaurant and music theater is intended to provide a venue for young artists to launch themselves, with the encouragement of low rental and superior technical facilities. "The concept is to present bands looking like they're in a special show. It's different from the usual nightclub routine where a band plays 2 or 3 sets a night, each set just a string of numbers. At the Music Museum each special show is conceptualized, scripted and directed. Kuh encourages fellow artists and producers to create special shows with themes that don't just play for one or two evenings, but for long runs, so you can really enjoy a show and come back to it again and again. Kuh also mentions that producers stand a better chance of making a profit on ticket sales with Music Museum's 700-seats capacity.

It only seems like yesterday, because Kuh Ledesma Nowadays is considered as one of the pillars in the Philippine entertainment industry's most exciting, most avidly worshipped talents. And on this, she still looks forward to the main body of career that promises to be long, prolific and constantly full of surprises. Fresh from the success of her long-running "Kuh At The Movies" with Fe delos Reyes, Eva Capasana and Jet Montelibano at the Music Museum, she has come up with a new and exciting Valentine's special concert, entitled "Lambutsingan sa ULTRA" with the APO HIKING SOCIETY.

After three years of pursuing and successfully marking their own careers apart from each other, the only tandem of four individuals reunited once more in what was probably the most exciting Valentine's show this year in "Lambutsingan sa ULTRA" starring Ms. Kuh Ledesma and the wacky trio — APO Hiking Society. Just like in their previous shows together, the audience was treated to a lot of laughter, novelty acts, romances and good music. To differentiate it from their previous shows, they did not do an all-out straight OPM repertoire. The group rendered some old time favorites to set the Valentine's mood right. The audience saw a zany duo in this show which has a sub-title of "For Maynard Awdiencens Only." Aside from duets of their hit songs, various production numbers were in store for everyone.

The two playdates of the show offered a choice for their followers to either celebrate the Valentine's with them on the 14th or do a post-Valentine celebration and have a Saturday night out at the ULTRA last February 17. Choreographed by Douglas Niens, scripted by Floy Quintos and Rey Cristobal as musical director, The show was for the benefit of the "Pasig Youth and Sports Development Foundation."



LANCOLITA

Uncovering Rita Avila

SHE slipped unobtrusively into the dimly-lit coffee shop, glowing with that characteristic million-dollar smile. Rita Avila, one of the reigning sex goddesses in local cinema, descended from the silver screen and re-emerged to mortality. The celebrated sensuality was intact — flawless skin, a very alluring mole on the left cheek, dark brown hair framing a delicate face. Only one illusion was shattered: For someone who appeared larger than life on screen, she was surprisingly petite. Barely an inch over five feet, one would wonder how so much electrifying passion can be packed into such a diminutive frame.

There was none of the vanities associated with sexy stars, either. Clad in jeans and a collared shirt, she was almost devoid of make-up — looking very fresh and squeaky clean at 10:00 in the morning. Over a tall, cool glass of green mango juice, she proceeded to bare herself. Rita Avila — the woman behind the sizzling facade.

Born Anna Maria Errea, Rita never had any showbiz inclinations during her younger years. She led the normal life of an average girl and did her parents proud by capping her studies with a Hotel and Restaurant Management diploma from UST. Her first taste of the limelight came as a commercial model and cover girl. "The photographer of a woman's magazine spotted me and invited me to grace the cover of the teen-oriented publication. After that, I got discovered for print and TV ads. I never thought I'd be an actress. All I wanted was to find a job and earn a lot of money. But when I started doing commercials, I felt *bita*, because the exposure was so short. Then later, whenever I'd watch movies of Vilma Santos and Dina Bonnevie, I would imagine myself in their position. I wanted to be like them..." Hoping to get a break into the business, Rita enrolled at the Actors Workshop Foundation. That year, 1986, she was signed up by Robie Tan (producer of Seiko Films) as the first female "Seiko Jewel".

As soon as she was given a screen name, life was never the same for the girl who first dreamt of being a teacher, an artist of a hotel PR manager. Embarking

on a totally different career, Rita Avila had chosen to cross the line that marked the boundaries from being a private person into becoming a public figure.

The price of fame For anyone who decides to join the showbiz bandwagon, the first thing to disappear is anonymity. Especially for someone who was primarily packaged as a teen idol before moving on into becoming a sex symbol, Rita has practically forgotten how it is to be plain Jana Doe. Shopping, her favourite leisure activity, is usually confined to Greenhills (where the crowd is quite used to celebrities) or right after a store opens in Makati or Quezon City. Otherwise, she would have to endure being ogled at, her every moment observed and sometimes, criticised. Not that she minds, really. "Actually, I'm not very recognizable because of my height. People expect Rita Avila to be tall and sexy. Sometimes, I even hear onlookers arguing about me. *Si Rita ba iyon? Ay, ang lili palan!* That's the usual comment. But I'm not insecure about my height, although I used to think I'd still grow taller. When I was in elementary, I was the tallest in class. Then I just got stunted," she recounted with an amused grin.

"I enjoy being famous," she continued. "I don't feel that fame is an intrusion into my life because I can balance things. I'm the type who couldn't care less what people say when I go out as a private person. When I'm not on-camera, I don't think of myself as Rita Avila, the actress. Actually, these days, I've grown quite tired of socialising. I prefer to stay at home and sleep. But of course, there are obligations I have to face as part of my profession..." When the pressures of work get on my nerves, I make a quiet escape and rest. I love going out-of-town, especially spots where there are beaches.

Despite the undeniably stunning looks, it's still difficult to reconcile the candid, articulate and laid-back young woman before us with Rita Avila, ST (sex trip) Queen. The moniker is a newly-coined one, intended to describe the present batch of alluring stars who elicit *oohs* and *ahhs* from their audience due to their magnetic screen presence. What differentiates them from the bold stars of yore is that ST

Queens do not look like sluts. They do not have to romp around in their birthday suits or do anything that borders on the pornographic. Theirs is a megawatt appeal generated from a breathtaking face and a trim (not necessarily voluptuous) figure. Hence, the word "trip" — much is left to the viewers' imagination.

Nevertheless, it is a daring appeal all the same. How does Rita react to being bruited about as an ST Queen? "It's okay, since people understand I'm just playing a role and that I'm not like that in real life. Besides, I'm particular about the weight of the character I'm playing. I can play sexy roles, but the character has to be significant. After watching my movie, I want the viewers to remember my acting. *Hindi yung, 'si Rita, sumabits sa binata'*..." (referring to a steamy love scene-by-the-window with Jesti Alarcon in a recent flick). I ask for comments from my family, my friends and some fans. So far, no one ever said, "Kaw, ha, ang b—y mo! Nakakadiri ka!" Nobody, not even the critics. They write good things about me and I'm happy that they do.

Rita considers her role as a rape victim in "*Babayaran Mo Nang Dugo*" as her most challenging one so far. In fact, she gave such a stirring portrayal that talks about about a possible nomination for the coming Famas. The actress has become quite bankable, completing an average of six movies per year. Rita is very excited about her solo launching flick, "*Mano sa Ina*", currently in production. It's a heavy vehicle with lots of highlights. I think I've shed gallons of tears for this one," she jests.

Fact vs fiction In her three-year affair with showbusiness, Rita has been through a number of highs and lows. In a world where fame is transitory and where the gossip mills grind viciously without end, Rita herself has proven to be "hot copy" a couple of times.

She recounts, "My most traumatic experience in showbiz was the time I was rumoured to have been raped by three Chinese businessmen. Just because my family moved to a bigger house, gossips had it that someone was supporting me. That's entirely



false — I pay my own rent! What hurt me more was that some friends in the business believed that rumour. Imagine, they'd come to me and say, 'Don't worry. Whatever happened, we're still behind you.' My God, I wanted to die at that moment. *Grabe!* Nobody seemed to believe me!" Eventually, the rumour died down, as all false reports do.

Another bone of contention earlier in her career was her age. While she was being passed-off as a teenager in *That's Entertainment*, reports leaked that she was already in her twenties. Rita humbly admits this deception. "It's true, I faked my age before because I was packed as a teen star. I resented it then, because I felt out of place. Everybody else in the show was so young and I had to look like them, wearing ribbons in my hair and bobbi socks. It got me really depressed for a time. I wanted out, but it would have been unwise. I owe 'That's...' a lot. The show helped me tremendously in popularity and mass appeal. But I just felt too old for it. Besides,

there was already a controversy brewing about my age. One magazine even published my picture in our college annual to contest my age! They had a point, so I just refused to comment and let my manager handle the issue. Fortunately, I shifted to adult roles and at least, I was able to reveal my real age. And it didn't hurt my career at all — it even added to my maturity. I'm proud to say I'm already twenty-five..."

Within the next five to ten years, Rita envisions herself as an ordinary citizen — hopefully, with a "Mrs" appended to her name. Her flourishing career would just be a topic for reminiscing by that time. "I've promised myself that once I get married, I'll stop acting — even if I'm at the peak of my career," she remarked determinedly. Rita doesn't even consider marrying a co-actor. If plans don't miscarry, Mr. Right just might be her present boyfriend — a non-showbiz gentleman with whom Rita confesses to be "very much in love." "My boyfriend is very supportive."

The Criminal

By J.P. Ruiz

I expected it. In fact, I was the only one in my family who wasn't surprised when my cousin Emil was jailed. Everyone thought Emil was such a good boy, the kind who never gets into trouble or is disrespectful to his elders or ever does anything you could frown at. But of course I knew the real Emil. Emilio Cabarte, that's his full name. He had another identity no one else knew. The secret Emil that wasn't apparent in his thin, almost scrawny body and his cherubic face made more trustworthy by his big eyeglasses. His seeming acceptance of dutiful employment as an accountant further covered up what he really was: a vicious criminal with an evil mind which plotted crimes against the society crimes which would have turned his mother's hair white, except that it was already white.

I knew Emil because he always confided in me. The trust was terribly gratifying to my ego, because Emil, at twenty-six, was several years older than me and his evil mind was absolutely superior. When we met over soft drinks and bread at our neighborhood bakery, and Emil would tell me his intricate criminal schemes, I was open-mouthed with awe and respect and a delicious kind of terror at simply knowing such a highly dangerous man. The only trouble with the relationship was that Emil sometimes involved me in his capers, and I didn't have the kind of iron fortitude he possessed. In other words, I was a coward and I still am.

At the time Emil was thrown in jail, I was just completing a temporary term of employment at a rattan furniture company. It was my third job since leaving high school, and my boss, Mr. de Castro, had decided I didn't have the qualities he looked for in an employee. He had a sore throat on that Monday he told me that bad news, and I was feeling sore too. I didn't feel any better when I came home and learned that Emil had been arrested.

It took me a while to get the story from my mother. But finally, I pieced it all together through the bits she told me. It happened that Emil borrowed his uncle's car, a 1970 model Corona, in order to take his girlfriend to Bulacan and I figured he got lost, because he steered the car down a one-way street. Unfortunately, he ran into a police car, and the cops were pretty nasty, specially when they found out that Emil had forgotten his driver's license. I don't know what exactly happened, but I guess Emil gave the cops a hard time. As a result they sent Nina home but took Emil to the precinct where he was detained. On Monday, which was the next day, his father, a nice old man who taught music, went to the police precinct and got Emil out.

The whole thing didn't sound so bad to me after I heard the story, but the way my mother carried on you'd have thought they were shaving Emil's head for electrocution. She was on the phone with Emil's mother all evening, wailing and crying like the world was coming to an end. She spent the whole night in the kitchen making chicken sandwiches to bring to Emil in the morning, as if he was sick in bed with cancer or something. I never could understand my mother.

Anyway, I went out the next day with the classified ads in the pocket of my old jacket, and made rounds. I didn't have much luck, mostly because the rounds I didn't take in a theater in a commercial center. But at six o'clock, compelled by habit, I headed over to a billiard hall two blocks away from our house to see if Emil, despite his experience,



would be there hanging around. He was! From the moment I was close enough to see his face, I knew that Emil had changed. For one thing, he was paler. I mean pale as in dead. And there was a kind of suffering look in his face, like a man who'd been through hell. Behind the big eyeglasses he wore, the eyes were narrow and old-looking, and as he chewed on the gum which was his habit, his mouth was a taut, thin line.

"Hello, Emil," I said. He nodded without even looking at me. "I heard about what happened. About your being jailed. I'm sorry."

He turned to look at me real slow. Then he said angrily, "Those bastards, I wish they all go to hell." "Did they maltreat you? Did they torture you or beat you up?"

"Of course not? They wouldn't dare lay a finger on me. They thought I was soft. But I fooled them, the dirty bastards. I could take being jailed without a sweat. They didn't know who they were dealing with. And if I really want to, I could have escaped."

My eyes went big as moons, and I began to realize that the night in jail had brought a transformation in Emil. He always talked tough, but never with such ferocity. I couldn't quite put my finger on it, but I knew that he was hardened.

"I cased that stinky jail pretty good," Emil said, staring straight ahead. "I figured out a foolproof plan for crashing out, and I would have, if my father hadn't brought me out. They couldn't hold me for long, not if I didn't want it. I would've hopped a ship for the south or some place and they'd never catch up with me. There were a couple of guys who knew the right people."

"What guys?"

"My friends. Guys who knew angles. Believe me, I learned a lot from them. I didn't like hearing Emil talk that way. I mean, I knew he was a real criminal but he was more the brain guy, not the strongarm type. The way he was talking now, it wasn't suave or anything; it was just plain tough, like a gangster."

"Emil," I said, "you shouldn't let it upset you like that. I mean it was only one night. It could've happened to anybody."

He laughed, a short, mocking laugh. "You just don't know kid. You're dreaming. You really think it would be that easy for me now?"

"Huh?"

"What kind of life do you think I'll have? Now that I've been in jail? The whole neighborhood knows. I'm an ex-con now. You think they can forget that?"

Top pop singles

HERE'S a list of the latest (well, some of it) singles in town. Take your pick in this payola-free review.

● Another Day in Paradise — Phil Collins (WEA). The first single from his latest album... But seriously, features vocals by David Crosby of Crosby, Stills & Nash fame and bass by top sessionist Leland Sklar (James Taylor, Jackson Browne). Another Day in Paradise is about the hobos of our society — how we scorn and avoid them like the plague.

● Until You Come Back to Me — Basia (OctoArts). Basia's follow-up LP, *London Warsaw New York*, to her smashing debut *Basia* of the remake of Aretha Franklin's early 70s classic, *Until You Come Back to Me*. Ahy assisted by Danny White, the cut is embellished with top-of-the-line studio techniques of the 80s for a fresher and bolder sound. This one's a winner indeed.

● You're the One — The Carpenters (Alpha). This was recorded by Karen Carpenter for her supposed solo project, but A&M deemed it proper to release a complete album of The Carpenters to coincide with their 20th anniversary in showbiz. Karen Carpenter followers — after her mysterious death — will surely have a grand reunion with their idol with the just released *Loveliness* featuring this recycled ballad. You're the One.

● Can't We Start Over Again — Jose Mari Chan (WEA). The third single off the quadruple-platinum LP, *Constant Change* — definitely last year's biggest seller in both local and foreign releases — Can't We Start Over Again is arranged by Homer Flores and Rey Magtoto. Jose Mari Chan's golden voice (call it platinum), reminiscent of Cliff Richard's, is like a cool, fresh mountain breeze — what we surely need in these dry months.

● Color Me Lonely — Keno (OctoArts). The intro's first three notes were obviously lifted from Fra Lippo Lippi's *Beauty and Madness*. The first line of the chorus is very Gary Valenciano (Sana Maulit Muli). I have nothing against Keno, but having two negative factors in one song is just too much. Okay, the song is commercial enough for it to be played on the radio, but doesn't Keno know that originality is the best policy?

● Pinay sa Japan — Roel Cortez (WEA). Remember the freak hit, *Napakasakit Kuya Eddie*, about the plight of an overseas (Saudi) worker sweating blood just to provide a decent living for his loved ones? Roel Cortez's follow-up tackles the so-called Filipina "cultural dancers" in Japan this time. Now that even married Pinays dare to try their luck in Japan, this cut simply reminds them what lies ahead.

● Don't Make Me Over — Sybil (OctoArts). This is a remixed version of Bacharach and David's 60s tune done by dienne Darwick. It seems that recycling is the order of the day (we already had three for this issue). Don't Make Me Over is currently being played in various FM stations, so expect it to sell. A once familiar song given a new twist is hard to resist.

● Woman in Chains — Tears For Fears (Dyna). Roland Orzabal and Curt Smith are into jazz these days. Roland Orzabal and Curt Smith are into jazz these days. Listen to the hypnotic *Woman in Chains*, featuring drums by the ever ubiquitous Phil Collins, and you'll agree with me. The song's about male chauvinism. By the way, check out the foxy lady in the black and white video clip of this cut.

● If I Ever Fall in Love Again — Kenny Rogers with Anne Murray (WEA). Country singers Rogers and Murray deliver a hook-laden duet destined to become a fave in melow stations. Wanna bet? On second thought, no more betting.

● Without Your Love — Jo Anne Lorenzana (Octo-Arts). Written by Zsa Zsa Padilla's songwriter Dodgie Simon, *Without Your Love* is just another "safe" music — catchy ballad — from Octo's factory. "But that's what sells," they'll argue. Let's leave it at that.

CB enters mart to stop fall of peso

THE Central Bank entered the market in an apparent bid to stop the further depreciation of the peso.

CB sold \$500,000 to Boston Bank, allowing the peso to close the day at P22.05 up from Tuesday's closing rate.

While it was the only transaction registered at the foreign exchange center operated by the Bankers Association of the Philippines (BAP), market sources said the CB also used its "persuasive powers" on banks to stay off the foreign exchange market.

The peso has lately been suffering a beating to the American greenback partly because of "speculative attacks" on the local currency triggered by the wider-than-anticipated trade gap at end 1989.

Preliminary government estimates placed the country's trade deficit last year at more than \$3 billion or substantially higher than the "soft-quoted \$2.3 billion gap," the sources said.

To allay fears on the sustained fall of the peso, top administration officials have made assurances that the government will continue with its policy of maintaining a stable peso.

From the provinces

MANILA: Brig. Gen. Carlos F. Malana, PC-INP Inspector General, has cited the "vital and crucial role of mediamen" and the risk involved in their profession during the recent abortive coup staged by the Reform the Armed Forces Movement (RAM).

"During the firefight between loyal government forces and the rebel soldiers, it was media which kept our countrymen throughout the country and of foreign countries well informed of what was going on and the latest development," Malana said.

At the same time, the PC-INP inspector general noted the risks of print and broadcast mediamen in covering the war between the contending loyalists and the rebel forces.

"Mediamen should, therefore, be commended for their heroic sacrifices in their well meaning intention to provide our countrymen the much-needed information particularly in times of strife, like the Dec 1-8 coup attempt," he said.

However, despite all the sacrifices and risks, yet there are still those who have the nerve to charge mediamen of unfounded charges like allegedly siding with the rebels when, in truth, "they are only chronicling what is really going on between two fighting forces," Malana said.

Malana expressed his views during a party in honour of news correspondent Leon M. Manop who is scheduled to leave for US and Europe on Sunday.

DAET, Camarines Norte: Twenty six more regular members of the New People's Army and Communist Party of the Philippines have surrendered to military authorities here. Lt. Col. Jose Angeles, Camarines Norte PC commander, said yesterday.

In a report to Brig. Gen. Mariano Filart, Recom V commander, Angeles said the rebels were accompanied by their respective barangay chairman and family members when they surrendered to the 246th PC company led by Capt. Rogelio Samadan.

Col. Angeles identified the surrenderees as Antonio Alvarez, Oscar Pesa, Cesar de Leon, Roberto Lariosa, Edgar Buinas, Rudy Danas, Nicolas Dasco, Paquito Bravo, Glen Valenzuela, Gaspar Fran, Mercedes Porciuncula, Quirico Danas, Vivencio Cana, Anita Danas, Norberto Norte, Tenoso Morte, Jose Villalon, and Gerry Salen.

Col. Angeles cited Lt. Pio Capistrano, intelligence and operation officer of the 246th PC company, for negotiating the surrender of a wanted person in Vinzon town.

IMUS, Cavite: Some P25 million worth of infrastructure projects will be implemented this year by the municipal government in a bid to accelerate socio-economic development in this town.

The projects were unveiled by Mayor Ayong Maliksi during the celebration of the second anniversary in office of the elected municipal officials.

The projects include the construction of a P20-million sports complex at the old capitol site on Gen. Aguinaldo Highway, the construction of a modern slaughterhouse worth P2 million in barangay Tandang Luma, the refurbishing of the town plaza (P2 million) which will be funded by the Philippine Tourism Authority, and concreting of the Alapan I barangay road (P1 million).

Maliksi said the projects, once completed, will help a lot in the improvement of the quality of life of his constituents.

Meanwhile, in a speech

during the blessing of the P500,000 lying-in clinic in Medicion I, Maliksi pledged to transform Imus into a first-class municipality before his term ends in 1992.

BALANGA, Bataan: Gov. Leonardo B. Roman said yesterday that P672,287 was released to finance the livelihood projects of New People's Army (NPA) rebel returnees in Bataan.

The amount, he said, was part of P60,000 released earlier by the Department of Local Governments (DLG) to the office of provincial treasurer Pastor Vichuaco.

Roman said that DLG Secretary Luis T. Santos promised to release anytime this month the balance of the P2.8 million he had asked for the rebel returnees' livelihood projects. The balance, he said, is P2.04 million.

The governor said that 119 of the 350 former NPA rebels were given loans after they were screened and certified as former NPA rebels by the Bataan PC-INP command and the social welfare office.

Felipe J. Nisay, provincial government operations officer, requested the main office of DLG that the payment of the loans be released to other rebel returnees who have been waiting for the government assistance.

MANILA: An initial batch of 133 Integrated National Police (INP) personnel — six officers and 127 men — started Monday special tactical operations training at the PC training command in Camp Castaneda, Silang, Cavite.

According to Col. Nicasio Ma. S. Custodio, PC Tracom superintendent, the aim of the 15-day training is to constitute a well-organized, well-trained and dependable component of law enforcement elements ready to provide assistance and protection to the people of the six municipalities under the jurisdiction of the Eastern Police District headed by Brig. Gen. Manuel Roxas Jr. who requested the holding of the training course.

Meanwhile, in observance of Constitution Week (Feb 2-8), Lt. Col. Douglas O. Rosete, PC Tracom chief of staff, on behalf of Colonel Custodio, led the organic officers and men of PC Tracom and the newly arrived INP group in pledging their oath of loyalty to the Constitution during the Monday flag-raising ceremonies held at Camp Castaneda.

LEGASPI CITY: A New People's Army (NPA) rebel was killed while an NPA tax collector was captured in recent military operations in barangays Batbat and Sinogtan, Albay, military reports said.

Col. Norberto M. Lina, Recom 5 deputy commander and Task Force Bulkan commanding officer, in a report to Brig. Gen. Marino L. Filart, Recom 5 commander, identified the NPA rebel killed as Jaime Oliva of Samahang Yunit Pangpropaganda (SYP) operating in Guinobatan town.

The captured NPA tax collector was identified as Alberto Oeteza, alias "Ka Boy."

TUBA, Benguet: Police investigators of this municipality are facing a blank wall in the murder of a bank manager whose body was found on the Marcos Highway.

Found dead at a ravine some 30 metres below the highway was Maximiano Hizon, 37, manager of the Allied Bank branch in Agoo, La Union.

The body bore three bullet wounds. It was discovered by a farmer.

Pic. Formaque Pagnas of the Tuba police force conducted the initial investigation

and reported that the body was dumped below at Sitio Esti-is, barangay Taloy Sur by the killers who drove away with the victim's car.

IBA, Zamboales: The Sangguniang panlalawigan (provincial board) endorsed the appointment of second assistant provincial prosecutor Federico N. Nacin as provincial prosecutor of Zamboales.

The provincial officials recommended Nacin to the position which was left vacant with the appointment of provincial prosecutor David R. Rosete as judge of Branch 61 of the regional trial court in Angeles City.

MAKATI, Metro Manila: A big factory for edible oil in this town was padlocked on orders of Makati Mayor Jejomar C. Binay.

Numerous complaints by residents against the plant's operation, which is said to be hazardous to their health, prompted the mayor to order the closure of the factory.

Binay ordered the Makati municipal administrator and regulatory chief not to renew the license and permit of the Tantuco Oil Co. on J.P. Rizal Ave. in Guadalupe Viejo "on the grounds of protection of the safety of human lives and the preservation of the ecological balance of the community."

Barangay officials and residents near the factory have complained of the black smoke emitted from the factory's chimney and of white toxic substances it discharges into the Pasig River.

The residents also complained of the noise pollution caused by the factory's 24-hour loading operations.

MANILA: A Metro Manila international communication and civic club sought an investigation on the alleged failure of the mother organisation of local radio clubs to pay taxes due to the government.

Samuel Uy, president of the Tiger Civic Action and Radio Group (TCAR), said he will ask the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) to look into the illegal operations of the group for allegedly not remitting taxes from cash collections representing membership fees from members of the 105 radio groups recognised by the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) nationwide.

The group, Uy said, requires members of radio groups to pay P50 each from 1985 to late last year. The fee increased by P100 last December.

MANILA: The Manila Regional Trial Court convicted an illegal recruiter who was charged on Aug 26, 1988, in six criminal cases for illegal recruitment filed by six complainants from Pozorrubio, Pangasinan.

In a 17-page decision, Manila Regional Trial Court Judge Doroteo N. Caneba convicted Mohammad Ata Mustafa Hassan, a Jordanian, for victimising six residents of Pozorrubio — Deogracias Federico, Noralyn Baguio, Angelita Biay, Rufino Eria, Arturo Marinas, and Marlon Laron.

Each of them gave P13,000 to P15,000 to land jobs in Abu Dhabi, Middle East, but were not able to.

Mustafa was sentenced to an indeterminate penalty of imprisonment from six years and one day of prison correctional in its medium and maximum periods to eight years of prison mayor minimum for each of the six counts of estafa (illegal recruitment) and was directed to pay the complainants P13,000 to P15,000 each.

The prosecution was directed to look for a certain Bebing de Vera if the evidence warrants it.

Embassy corner

Filipinos beware

IT has come to the attention of this Embassy that some sectors of the Filipino community has been using Olivia Palala's name or that of the Embassy for their own dubious purposes, if not to discredit the same.

An example of a rumour being bruited about is that of an affair, supposedly being organised by one "Rose Aquino", which allegedly is being held under my sponsorship, or with my "blessings". The affair is definitely a money-making one, since as we have been informed, tickets costing K.D.5 (five dinars only) are being sold for it.

This is a blatant example of false advertisement, and I am aware that the Kuwaiti laws are very keen on shielding the innocent public from people or parties who distort the truth for their own purposes.

At this point, I would like to repeat that:

1. I do not know this "Rose Aquino" either personally, professionally or in whatever manner;
2. I deplore the manner she has adopted,

shamelessly using my name, just to sell tickets for an "affair". I am supposed to give my blessing to;

3. I categorically state that I have nothing to do, nor am I personally involved in the "affair" being organised by this "Rose Aquino" supposedly for the 9th of March 1990 at Ramada Al Salam Hotel.

At the same time, I enjoin everybody to guard against rumours and rumour-mongers. If we remain vigilant, none of us has to fall into their traps.

It is very easy to get at the truth concerning the Embassy: just call, visit or write to us. Our telephone numbers, address and mailing address are stated hereunder for the purpose:

Embassy of the Philippines
Tel. Nos. 532-9315/6/7/8/9
Jabriya, Area 10, Police Station Street,
House 363
P.O. Box 26288 Safat, 13123,
State of Kuwait.

And to "Rose Aquino" and company, a special message: Please don't use your dirty tricks on innocent people. Remember that "you can fool some of the people some of the time, but not all of the people all of the time."

Bruce's latest bed hop... on KTV 2

By Jadranka Porter
Arab Times staff

WASNT I surprised to see Bruce Willis of Moonlighting fame hop into bed last week with Roseanne. So was Roseanne (Roseanne Barr). She giggled and squealed, and for a minute I thought I was watching TV Bloopers and Practical Jokes.

But it was the Roseanne series all right. I am still mystified as to what the Hollywood heart-throb was looking for in the series, let alone Roseanne's bed.

I expected Cybil Shepherd to walk in any second and throw a tantrum, as well as her shoes and bag at David Addison. But before you could say Jack Robinson, Willis vanished. The credits followed.

The only explanation I can come up with is that Roseanne's TV ratings began dropping dangerously in the US and the producers thought only a celebrity could salvage a series about a glamorous working class family. Willis's time though must be rather expensive, judging by his fleeting appearance. Even if they could afford to keep him in bed with Roseanne for a few

minutes the American public cannot be fooled so easily. Nor would KTV rise to the bait. They know what bedroom scenes are for — the scissors. Mind you, there might be something happening at KTV that we don't know about, for Bruce Willis was actually allowed to peck Roseanne on the cheek.

There was another, albeit more successfully, TV hybrid on KTV 2 a week ago when detective Harry McGraw temporarily abandoned The Law and Harry McGraw to run to the aid of Jessica Fletcher, the crime story writer in Murder, She Wrote. Or was it the other way round?

While Willis and Roseanne make an odd couple, the methodical and resourceful Fletcher is a match for clumsy but ingenious McGraw. This is itself is not good enough a reason to have them work as a team. Nobody doubted they would nail down the murderer, but they never failed when they operated on their own either. Someone should tell Hollywood that this type of teamwork is a waste.

The Watergate Affair has been thrashed out long ago, in real life and movies, but

last Sunday's bestseller *Final Days* had the errant Richard Nixon whimper and pray for a miracle that will keep him in the White House. The film was not so much about the affair itself as it was a display of a peculiar morality — the president agonises but about his propensity for dirty tricks but about his inability to cover his tracks.

I would make this movie compulsory viewing for all the new leaders in budding democracies lest they get tempted (like the Hungarians, who obviously have not watched *Final Days*, and resorted to illegal telephone tapping) to use underhand ways to develop their democracies. The bad bit is that Nixon's only regret was that he was caught and others before him had not been.

We are repeatedly told by KTV that Channel 2 is not there for the expatriates but for the Arabs who wish to improve their English. This is fine so long as the Cine Club does not screen a Russian, or a Japanese film, as was the case last week when Farouk Abdul Aziz featured the masterpiece of Japanese cinematography, Akira Kurosawa's *The Seven Samurai*. As

the film was not dubbed and carried subtitles in Arabic the only conclusion I can draw is that Arab viewers are expanding their interest in foreign languages and are now onto a lesson in Japanese. Pity, as they could have upgraded their English reading ability had there been subtitles in that language.

And now over to Dalia. No, we won't talk about her English for that would be flogging a dead horse. It is her pronunciation of names. The other night she rechristened the Japanese Prime Minister calling him Mr Keefe, while you can hardly find a Japanese that has a simpler and shorter name than the premier's. We won't go into further detail, suffice it to say that Ms Dalia is at her most imaginative when it comes to Slavic names, and among those her speciality are Polish names, although she did a nice job of the Yugoslav president's name as well. One remarkable thing is that month after month, year after year Ms Dalia takes her own mistakes with a stoic grin. Is it possible that those in charge of *The News* share her indifference? The public doesn't.

Watier launches products

By Lima Al Khalafawi
Arab Times staff

INNOCENT or seductive, romantic or sophisticated, discreet or adventurous, with the colours of Lise Watier cosmetics, you can reveal the different facets of your personality.

Lise Watier, who has the largest beauty institutes in Canada believes in competition that makes an individual work better and more innovatively.

"I work 200 per cent to achieve 100 per cent", Watier said. "A woman of distinguished tastes on women's beauty, she was brought up in Montreal, Canada in school with nuns. When she reached the age of 19 she was fascinated by a book of Helena Rubenstein. Watier, after reading the book, decided that her future would be dedicated to making women beautiful."

Watier as a student was very shy. She would always prefer to cut the hair of her friends and classmates at school and do make up for them.

In her twenties she worked on TV, and was daily addressing women on all aspects of their interests — on how to behave in society, how to look beautiful and how to dress, etc.

Such questions were on her mind all the time, but with the advice from specialists, answers were of great benefit years later.

Her interest in this particular field of specialisations, stems from the inborn conviction that "beauty is of primary concern to every woman irrespective of her status".

This interest and experience finally developed and was implemented to the founding of her school so as to answer women's needs to feel good about themselves.



Watier started her institute of beauty services in 1968 till 1987, with new developments in this field. In 1972 she launched her full cosmetics line and being choosy in the quality of cosmetics she was able to bring out something new and different in the prestigious cosmetic products along with fragrance.

In spite of the hectic pace of activities that called for a continual personal involvement in her institute, she endured lecturing big companies, for example Air Canada teaching all aircraft crew.

She is the mother of two daughters aged 18 and 15 and has

a loving husband who works in the financial services. Her family is the "catalyst in her successful career". Obtaining total support is an essential base.

Watier keeps a strict diet comprising mainly of cellulose as a means to maintain a trim figure. "My work is a hobby, a life time, a passion that worked out in harmony", she said and added that she is privileged as her husband is with her. A loving husband that shares all her joys and crises. He is always there to say "tomorrow will be better".

Lise Watier on her second visit to Kuwait has successfully launched her cosmetics line in the area as well as in Saudi Arabia.

The Caucasian Chalk Circle

PRESENTED BY THE NEW ENGLISH SCHOOL, KUWAIT.

I suspect that a number of the audience of Tuesday's opening night performance of this piece will have travelled home with questions in their mind. The play, an episodic story loosely centered on a woman's action in saving and caring for a baby during a time of civil unrest, is a difficult piece, both for performers and audience. Pulling out of the car park, many people may have asked themselves quite what the play was about. Once on the motorway, they may have been asking themselves why this particular play should be performed in 1990. After all, it is ostensibly a socialist play written many years ago, and isn't socialism a dying philosophy, what with the recent upheaval in Eastern Europe? Finally, turning into their drive and getting out of the car, they might have wondered why on earth a school should choose to perform such a difficult play.

I think that the fact that the first question — about the clarity of the play — is asked, perhaps points to an occupational hazard faced by any performers of Brechtian theatre. A lot of things happen, there is a cast of dozens (twenty-nine in this case with many part doubling or "trebling" up) and the storyline doesn't become clear for sometime. Some of the confusion could be put down to the inexperience of the performers, but Brecht's message is not a simple one, and cannot be expressed in simple terms.

Nevertheless, now is a good time to look at what Brecht is saying; the play is about the humanitarian side of socialism. At a time when the iron machinery of the government of the Eastern block is being rolled aside, it's timely to consider the baby along with the bathwater. And it is the welfare of the baby and the compassion of his foster mother in the play that Brecht is concerned with. I suspect that Brecht would have been delighted with the turn of events in Eastern Europe — but also alarmed by the triumphant cries of "all socialism is bad — all capitalism is good." So, given that it's a good time to reconsider this difficult play, why should a school do it, rather than choose a less demanding piece?

School is — or should be — about stretching and challenging the individual. It should offer every student the chance of realising his or her full potential. Why should school drama be different? From the moment the play opened, with an attention-grabbing and exciting full-cast rendition of the "Internationale" it was clear that we, the audience, were in for something other than the usual school play recipe of easy laughs.

With some whole-hearted and sometimes thrilling ensemble playing, the cast threw themselves into the performance and stretched themselves and their audience to the limit. True, some of the performances were uneven, and there were times when it looked as if they had bitten off more than they could chew but, overall, director Thomas Zugic managed to imbue his cast with a tremendous attack and energy that defied the audience not to be involved in the story of woman and child surviving in a desperate situation. As Grusha, the woman, Nadia Dabbagh gave a performance that was utterly convincing and often, especially in the scenes with Simon (Asim Ali), very moving. There is no question that Ms Dabbagh is a very talented actress. Of the other actors, Mazen El Hadary and Bassam Shuhaiber deserve great credit for their engaging and powerful performances as narrators, and, playing a number of smaller roles, Tamimah Dhafer effortlessly displayed a sense of perfect timing and control that enable her to steal almost every scene she was in.

The New English School has never gone for the soft option when it comes to school drama, and the Caucasian Chalk Circle is a credit to the ambition and commitment of all concerned.

Phil Clymer — British Broadcasting Corporation (Overseas)



Khalifa School holds spring bazaar

THE Khalifa school recently held a charity bazaar at the Old Failaka Room of the Kuwait International Hotel. The bazaar displayed Latin American rugs, silver, souvenirs, brassware, decoupage, ceramics and other works of art. Mrs Evelyn Jasbanmal inaugurated the event.

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Hobby Centre
FELTCRAFT as a medium for children to make pictures, flowers, toys etc. with felt. This new craft course will start February 27th and March 4th for 6 weeks for children from 8 years old. Tel: 5618847, 5317354.

Watercolours of Arabia
Recent watercolours by Patricia Mills on exhibition at the studio, the Tareq Rajab Museum, Jabriya, Saturday thru Thursday 9.30 to 12 and 4.30 to 8 pm, from March 6 to 20, 1990. Tel: 5315397, or 5318060.

Now at the Messilah Beach Hotel Health Club.

NIGHT CHEMIST

Kuwait
Al Watan Pharmacy
Fahd Al Salem St.
Al Rashed Pharmacy
Ahmed Al Jaber Street
Hawalli and Nagra
Al Najat Pharmacy
Hawalli
Salimiyah and Rumaithiya
Phinicia Pharmacy
Salem Al Mubarak Street
Fahad and Ahmad
Burgan Pharmacy
Souk Al Sabah
Jaleel Al Shagookh
Al Salama Pharmacy
Main Street
Jabra
Al Nour Pharmacy
Matafi Street

PRAYERS

Fajr 4.52 am
Zohr 12.00 pm
Asr 3.20
Maghreb 5.49
Isha 7.06

SOCIAL

Amadeus Chamber Orchestra
THE world renowned 20 member Amadeus Chamber Orchestra conducted by Agnieszka Duczmal will be performing at the Kuwait International on 4th and 5th March. The Amadeus Chamber Orchestra has performed frequently in Poland and has toured over 18 European countries as well as the United States, Canada, Mexico and Brazil. Tickets on sale at: 2630000 ext 4010.

APPROB essay competition
ASSOCIATION of Pakistani Professionals and Businessmen (APPROB) has extended the last date of its essay competition from 15th March to 15th April. The essay competition on the topic "My role in building a better Pakistan" is being held on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee of the Pakistan Resolution.

Pakistani students in the age group of between 12-14 (juniors) and 15-18 (seniors) are invited to write their essays in Urdu or English, which should be between 1,000 to 1,500 words.

Four prizes of KD 100 each (2 each for Urdu and English) will be awarded to the best articles in each group with other consolation prizes for deserving participants.

The penal of judges is headed by Dr M.I. Saleem, Dr. Ali Jaffrey and Abdus Sattar Ghazali. For further details, contact: Tel. APPROB: 2425315 Fax: 5323751.

Daniella Desert Rally
The annual family rally for Danes will take place on Friday, March 23. For registration, please call Henrik — Tel: 3727688/92 ext. 246 before Wednesday, March 14.

Daniella Coffee Morning

The next coffee morning for Danes will take place at the SAS Hotel on Sunday, March 4, at 9 am. For further details call Inge — 3727688 ext 207.

Bits 'n' Pieces
An interesting 8 week course in patchwork and quilting techniques. For details contact Tel. 5634663.

CINEMA

Al Andalus
World Gone Wild
Al Salimiyah
Batman
Al Hamra
Arabic film
Drive-in
Big
Al Firdous

Maa Beti
Fahad Open
Agnee Path
Al Jabra
Kahani Phoolan Ki
Granada
Ninja Operation
Sulabikhat
Oasis of the Lost Woman
Jeeb
Varavepu
Ahmad Drive-in
Saigon

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

MORNING

9.30 The Opening and Holy Quran
9.40 Sabah Al Kher News
9.50 Cartoon Serial
10.15 Magazine D'Actualite (repetition)
10.30 Shuaa Min Al Madhi: Arabic Serial (part 12)
11.45 That's Incredible: Foreign Variety Programme
12.25 News Summary
12.30 Holy Quran and Closedown

EVENING PERIOD

4.00 The Opening and Holy Quran
4.15 The World Today via Satellite (repetition)
4.45 Saham Al Fadh: Cartoon Serial
5.15 Cartoons
5.45 Night Chemists, Airlines and Official Advertisements
6.00 Wa Qala Hakeem: Historical Serial
7.00 Varieties
7.15 You and Your Health: Local programme, prepared by Dr Saleem Ghazi and presented by Dr Husain Al

KTV 2

7.45 Muemen
Divaniyat Shuara Al Nabat: local programme
8.30 Good Evening and Local News
9.00 News in Arabic
9.45 Ila Al Shabah Maa Al Taheya: Arabic Serial (part 7)
10.45 Msafra Fi Hayat Al Akhareen: Arabic feature (part 1): starring Ahmad Mazar, Layla Tader and Sameera Sudqi
12.00 News Summary
12.05 The World Today via Satellite
12.30 Holy Quran and Closedown

KTV 2

6.00 Opening Announcement & Holy Quran
6.10 The New Three Stooges. A cartoon series for children.
6.30 The Beachcombers. "Anatomy Of An Accident" Jesse in a body cast? Laurel wearing a whiplash collar? Relic on crutches? Nick leads them all into court to get to

the bottom of a bizarre series of events and chain reactions...

7.00 The Celts. "The Final Conflict." A look at the Celtic language as a means for studying traditions, moral and cultures of the Celts... An attempt is made to revive the Celtic language...
8.00 News in English
8.30 Midnight Caller "Promise To A Dead Man" "Kilian" is requested to help reveal the secret of a crime committed 40 years ago by searching for a person who called him by phone...
9.30 Coach. Hyden fires Luther, the defence, of the football team because of gambling for meat...
10.00 Q.E.D. Breaking The Silence. Christine is a lady who lost her sense of hearing after an accident. She accepts to participate in a scientific experiment which will transplant a device inside her ear...
10.30 Bestseller. "Cassidy"
12.00 News in Brief
12.15 Magazine D'Actualite

Winners sponsoring Narmada's event

WINNERS Restaurant, the Indian sensation in Kuwait for Continental, Chinese and Mughal dishes, located in Salimiyah and Farwaniya, will be sponsoring the presentation of Malayalam social drama A Love Mantra from Ujjain to be staged by Narmada Theatres at Indian Arts Circle Auditorium, Funtaines on Friday, May 11, 1990 at 6.30 pm. A press release of Narmada Theatres claims that rehearsals are on full swing and the organisers are of hope to make it a memorable event for the Malayalee community in Kuwait. Picture shows Haji P. K. Moideen, managing partner of Winners Restaurant signing the agreement of sponsorship while looking on to it is C.A. John, Chairman of Narmada Theatres.

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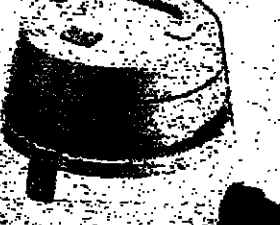
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BUSINESS & FINANCE

Four indices dip

Kuwait trade volume surges

THE Alshail index for Kuwaiti shareholding companies recorded on Wednesday, Feb 28, 1990 an average of 38.74 points with a decrease of 0.01 point—0.03 per cent—from last week's average of Wednesday, Feb 21, 1990. The Alshail index for non-Kuwaiti shareholding companies reached 64.93 points with a decrease of 2.56 points—3.79 per cent—for the same period, according to Al Shail weekly market review.

The trading volume (three days of trading only) for Kuwaiti shares reached 14.62 million shares at a daily average of 4.87 million shares with an increase of 146 per cent from the previous week's daily average of 1.98 million shares.

Non-Kuwaiti traded shares reached 1.28 million shares at a daily average of 0.427 million shares with a decrease of 67 per cent over last week's daily average of 0.632 million shares.

The value of Kuwaiti traded shares was KD10.89 million at a daily average of KD3.63 million, an increase of 397 per cent over last week's daily average of KD0.73 million. The value of non-Kuwaiti traded shares was KD0.046 million at a daily average of KD0.015 million, a decrease of 65 per cent from last week's daily average of KD0.042 million.

For the Kuwaiti shares market, the banking sector came first at 90.5 per cent of total trading against 53 per cent last week. The National Bank had the lead at 79 per cent, followed by Kuwait Finance House at 9 per cent and Burgan Bank at 4 per cent.

The investment sector came second at 3.6 per cent in which Coast Investment and Development Company had the lead at 91 per cent followed by Kuwait Investment Projects Company at 7 per cent and Commercial Facilities Company at 2 per cent. The Real Estate Sector came third at 3.3 per cent in which United Realty Company had the lead at 79 per cent followed by Kuwait Real Estate Company at 21 per cent. As for the non-Kuwaiti shares market, Umm-Alquain Cement Company had the lead at 63 per cent, followed by Bahrain International Bank at 31 per cent and Bahrain Middle East Bank at 6 per cent.

The market gave signs of mixed performance which was inclined to the active side in spite of the fact that four of the six indices decreased while two increased. Two of the Kuwaiti indices increased while the third did not change and this justifies our previous conclusion of increase in market activity. From previous experience, we believe that the next few weeks will show signs of increase in pressures to activate the market, however, we cannot predict if this will lead to any change.

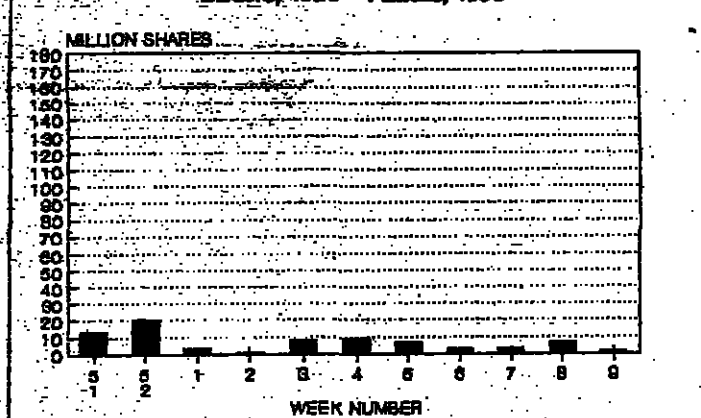
Kuwait shareholding companies index

	Wed. 28/02/90	Wed. 21/02/90	Change points
Banking Sector			
The National Bk	122.61	121.52	1.09
The Gulf Bk	29.70	29.70	—
The Comm. Bk	23.71	23.71	—
Al Ahli Bk	29.77	29.77	0.50
Bk of Kt & ME	30.97	30.97	—
Kuwait R. Est. Bk	28.29	28.71	-0.43
Burgan Bk	25.81	26.01	-0.21
Kt Finance House	77.45	77.45	—

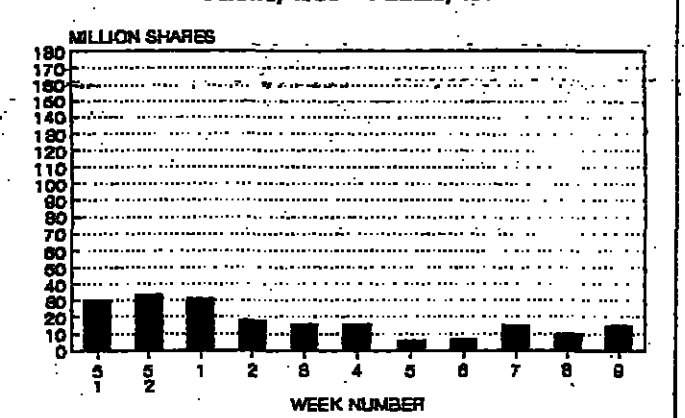
Sector Index	47.63	47.43	0.20
Inv. Sector			
Kuwait Inv. Co.	9.18	9.18	—
Kt. Int. Inv. Co.	8.59	8.59	—
IFA	24.45	24.45	—
Comm. Facilities	145.75	148.50	-2.75
National Inv.	57.84	57.84	—
Kt. Inv. Proj.	92.13	92.13	—
Coast Inv. & Dev.	89.41	91.76	-2.35
Sector Index	31.92	32.22	-0.30
Ins. Sector			
Kt. Ins. Co.	35.88	35.88	—
Gulf Ins. Co.	23.08	23.08	—
Al Ahlia Ins.	50.84	50.84	—
Warba Ins. Co.	50.69	50.69	—
Sector Index	35.74	35.74	—
Real Est. Sec.			
Kt. Real Est.	12.74	14.02	-1.27
Utd. Realty	5.35	5.29	0.06
Nat. Real Est.	39.42	39.42	—
Pearl of Kt.	63.49	63.49	—
Sector Index	15.50	15.81	-0.31
Ind. Sector			
Kt. Cmt. Co.	11.45	11.45	—
Ref. Ind.	84.55	84.55	—
Gulf Cables	104.08	104.08	—
Kt. Pharm.	60.44	60.44	—
Sector Index	28.83	28.83	—
Services Sector			
Kt. Cmptr. Co.	140.40	151.20	-10.80
Kt. Cinema Co.	7.61	7.61	—
Pub. Whousg Co.	58.59	58.59	—
Kt. Comm. M. Co.	36.83	36.83	—
M. Tele. Syst.	338.10	347.62	-9.52
Sector Index	57.31	58.49	-1.17
Food Sector			
L. Trad. & Transp.	29.29	29.29	—
Utd Fisheries	11.05	11.05	—
Kt. Poultry	110.01	110.01	—
Kt. Food Co.	73.56	73.56	—
Sector Index	38.49	38.49	—
Overall Index	38.74	38.76	-0.01

Non-Kuwaiti shareholding companies index	Wed. 28/02/90	Wed. 21/02/90	Change points
First G. Bk.	236.84	236.84	—
Bah. Int. Bk.	82.76	91.03	-8.28
Bah. M.E. Bk.	94.92	93.97	0.95
A. Gen. Inv. (Shua)	43.94	43.94	—
Umm Al Q. Cmt.	17.25	17.62	-0.37
G. Med. Projs.	13.13	13.13	—
Total Index	64.93	67.49	-2.56
—Base period 31/12/1983.			
—All the companies listed by the Stock Exchange under non-Kuwaiti companies are included.			

NON-KUWAITI SHAREHOLDING COMPANIES WEEKLY TRADING VOLUME FROM DEC.15, 1989 - FEB.28, 1990



KUWAITI SHAREHOLDING COMPANIES WEEKLY TRADING VOLUME FROM DEC.15, 1989 - FEB.28, 1990



Bundesbank paper sees one-to-one swap for ostmark

HAMBURG, West Germany, March 3. (Reuters): A secret paper on monetary union from West Germany's powerful Central Bank proposes that East and West German marks should be worth the same, the weekly magazine Der Spiegel said today.

But the Bundesbank, the central bank which controls West Germany's currency, largely free of government interference, policy, said it had not drawn up plans for monetary union.

"The proposals quoted (by Spiegel) come from a written discussion document from one of the Bundesbank's 18 board members," the central bank said. "This contribution was made — together with a series of other contributions — in preparation for discussions in the Bundesbank council."

The Bundesbank's policy-making council met on Thursday and economists said discussions had centred on Chancellor Helmut Kohl's drive for German monetary union.

As a first step to unity, the two Germans plan to replace the weak East German mark with the powerful West German currency, but no one is sure how many East German marks one West German mark will be worth.

In an advance summary of an article in next Monday's edition, Der Spiegel said East Germans would at first be allowed to swap up to 2,000 marks cash and up to 3,000 marks in bank deposits at one-to-one rate.

Additional funds would be exchanged at the same rate but at a later date, it added, citing the confidential bank document.

The usually well-informed magazine said the document also suggested firms and public authorities should be able to swap a set amount of funds at the one-to-one rate. The report was similar to one published in the Hamburg newspaper Bild on Friday.

Rates of two or three East German marks for one West German mark have also been suggested. The issue is complex: a lower rate,

for example, would slash East Germans' savings but prevent East German products becoming too expensive for export.

Kohl said last week he expected currency union to be completed this year. He offered in February to introduce the mark into East Germany to save its battered economy and encourage East Germans to stop flocking in droves to the West.

But Bundesbank president Karl Otto Poehl was quoted as saying on Wednesday a rate of one-to-one for all East German marks was naive.

"A mark of the GDR (German Democratic Republic) isn't worth a D-mark," Poehl told the New York Times.

The Bundesbank, worried about the possible inflationary and destabilising effects of the West German currency, has been cautious about plans for monetary union and has shown little eagerness to rush into it.

London market regains ground

LONDON, March 3, (UPI): Equities on London's international stock exchange ended a week of this trading with a modest rally, regaining ground lost after this week's dismal trade report, the third worst on record.

The Financial Times Stock Exchange 100-share index closed at 2254.9 points, up 16.4 points on the session and 18.1 points higher on week. The Financial Times 30 index closed at 1774.2 points, up 9.3 points on the day and 11.9 points higher compared to February 23.

The S&P 500 index Friday reached a healthy 542 million shares, the first day this week that trading surpassed the 400 million level. However, 176 million of the shares were accounted for by Eiders selling its 23 per cent stake in Scottish and Newcastle.

Friday's recovery was checked by the weakness of sterling and fears about a political backlash against the government's poll tax.

Share prices in London rebounded Monday, surging off the second largest one-day fall of the Tokyo Stock Exchange. A 35-point fall on the FTSE in early trading turned into a 13-point gain at the close. Wall Street's early collapse in the face of the Tokyo turmoil helped shares in London recover.

But industries gained 5p to 784p as General Cinema showed interest in Marshall Field's and Saks Fifth Avenue, the two American department stores the tobacco, insurance and financial services shares intended to sell. Body Shop tumbled 42p to 475p with reports that the European Economic Community planned to tighten its rules on cosmetics have not been tested on animals.

In trading Tuesday, share prices moved slightly higher, but investors were cautious ahead of the monthly trade figures.

A 24 per cent profits boost sent Unilever, the Anglo-Dutch food and personal products group, up 5p to 630p while resources from the European Commission helped body shop recover 34p to reach 509p.

A broker's downgrading for companies depressed the insurance sector. General Accident shares dropped 18p to 1105p while Guardian Royal lost 3p to 237p and Sun Alliance dropped 9p to 302p.

Economic giants meet

Trade disputes tackled

RANCHO MIRAGE, Calif., March 3, (Reuters): President George Bush and Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu of Japan wrap up two days of talks today by tackling key trade disputes straining ties between the economic giants.

Bush and Kaifu's first day of talks on Friday in the relaxed atmosphere of the exclusive morningside country club focused largely on military issues in the Pacific and touched briefly on trade.

Kaifu told journalists late on Friday that he also wanted US co-operation in stabilising volatile currency markets. The markets have fluctuated wildly in Tokyo in recent weeks.

"It is quite natural that Japan and America will co-operate on the currency markets, and without this no effective counter-measures can be worked out," he said.

Generally, both countries have co-operated in trying to co-ordinate currency values, although the dollar closed on Friday above 150 Japanese yen for the first time in 2 1/2 years — despite US attempts to halt the rise of its currency.

US and Japanese officials said much of the agenda of the final day of the talks was devoted to American anger over what it claims are unfair trade barriers that block US goods from Japan's market.

The complaints, which have been festering for years, have fuelled anti-Japanese sentiments among increasingly frustrated members of Congress.

"Both (leaders) recognise that the countries face difficult issues" involving trade, said Shigeo Takasaka, a Japanese government spokesman.

"They agreed the two countries' relationship has never been more important than it is now," he said.

The structural impediments initiative talks, the latest in a series of US-Japan negotiations aimed at lowering barriers to imports, have mushroomed into a major trade dispute between the two nations.

Stakes are especially high following the third round of the talks last week, which failed to satisfy US demands that Japan take quick action to help cut a trade surplus with the United States that has hovered around \$50 billion annually for years.

US officials have grown impatient with vague Japanese declarations of intent to solve trade problems.

Bush was particularly concerned about trade in satellites, supercomputers and forest products and briefly raised the issues during Friday's talks — which primarily were devoted to defence issues.

US Defence Secretary Dick Cheney told the Japanese during a visit last month that US-Japanese trade disputes caused him concern "for the continued good health of our overall relations."

During that trip he announced that the United States was considering a 10 per cent cut in the number of US troops stationed in the Pacific region.

(See Page 16)

More belt-tightening urged

King Hassan warns Moroccans

AGADIR, Morocco, March 3, (Reuters): King Hassan warned Moroccans today to tighten their belts because of the impact of high energy prices and lower-than-expected phosphate exports.

In a state-of-the-nation address on the annual Throne Day, the King said the government would take account of new factors which have seen the budget deficit soar to 6.9 billion dirhams (\$860 million).

"From now on, it (the government) will have to follow a balanced and wise austerity policy," he said.

The King, speaking from a new luxurious palace in Agadir, accused unnamed buyers of phosphate — Morocco's largest export — of failing to honour contracts.

"This has had negative repercussions on our budget," he said, adding that a sudden increase in energy prices had made a complete nonsense of economic forecasts.

Morocco — one of the world's most heavily indebted nations — began an austerity programme sponsored by the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) in the mid-1980s.

Helped by good harvests and low world energy

prices, the economy saw high growth and low inflation in 1987 and 1988, but ran into trouble again last year when tourism receipts declined and a row with India hit sales of phosphates.

India — Morocco's most important buyer of phosphoric acid — stopped all imports after a pricing dispute which resulted in an 80 per cent slump in sales.

In 1988, sales of phosphate rock and acid earned 11 billion dirhams (\$1.32 billion) for Morocco.

The phosphate decline coincided with a 16.6 per cent increase in the cost of imports in the first half of last year compared with 1988 to 22 billion dirhams (\$2.6 billion).

Oil cost Morocco — one of the few non-oil producing countries in the Arab world — 28 per cent more in the period.

In the first six months of last year, the trade deficit grew by more than 60 per cent and is now estimated at around \$700 million.

The IMF wants Morocco to cut state subsidies and bring the budget deficit down from a projected 6.5 per cent to 3.5 per cent before it grants a new facility.



CENTRAL BANK OF KUWAIT

ANNOUNCEMENT

**For Subscription in Issue No. (99) for Treasury Bonds
Authorised by Decree Law No. (50) of 1987**

CENTRAL BANK OF KUWAIT, on behalf of the Ministry of Finance of the State of Kuwait, hereby announces the offering of TREASURY BEARER BONDS in Kuwaiti Dinar for SUBSCRIPTION in compliance with the following Rules and Regulations:

1. AMOUNT OF ISSUE:

The Amount of this Issue is KD 50 million distributed over Four Denominations as follows:
KD 10 000, KD 50 000, KD 250 000, KD 500 000

2. ISSUE DATE: Saturday 10 / 3 / 1990

3. AMOUNTS, TERMS OF BONDS AND INTEREST RATES:

ONE-YEAR BONDS for KD 50 million Due on Sunday 10 / 3 / 1991,
Interest Rate of 8 1/2% per annum,
to be paid at the end of every six months from Issue Date.

4. OFFERING PERIOD:

From: Sunday 4 / 3 / 1990
To : Tuesday 6 / 3 / 1990

5. ALLOTMENT: Tuesday 6 / 3 / 1990

6. DELIVERY OF BONDS:

After one week following the date of issue and upon submitting application.

7. The Provisions of this Issue shall be subject to the Rules and Conditions stipulated in the Announcement for Subscription in Issue No. (1) for Treasury Bonds, published in the Local Newspapers of Saturday, November 21, 1987 and in the Official Gazette (Kuwait Al-Yaum) No.1746 issued Sunday, November 22, 1987.

Bombay Stock Exchange prices (Rs)

Fr. Close	Open	Close
348	348	352
ACC		
Alam Chem	—	—
Alw Nis	—	—
Ati Fab	75	76
Ashok Ley	222.50	221.25
Asia Paint	38	37.50
Auto Corp	52.50	51.25
Nat Index	380.25	379.63
Bajaj Auto	387.50	385
Bar Rayon	645	640
Below Plast	185	184
Beta Dye	100	99
BK Bond	82.50	80
Burr Wd	—	85
Cumhare	—	3125
Con Enka	3100	3075
Con Sps	2660	2660
Colgate	182.50	182.50
Crompty	950	940
D&G	14	13
Deep Fert	31	30.50
Dunlop	58	56
El Hotels	61	61
Esports	82.50	82
BSE Index	692.59	691.61
Edayer	31.50	32.25
Esar Sps	105	106
Esar Sps	48.75	47.50
Forbes	43.50	42.50
Gar Poly	95.50	94
Gilind	48.75	48
GNPC	118.50	110
Gosam	46.25	46
GRE Sps	181.25	180
Out Aik	80.50	79.50
Gia Heavy	16	15.50
Hero Brand	16	15
Hind Cba	1140	1130
Hind Lever	109	109
Hind Motor	23	22.50
Hindlco	230	228.75

SHIPPING MOVEMENTS

SHIP'S NAME	AGENT	TEL. NO.
05 Sea Bird	Sagar Shabreen	2432692
10 Maersk Sky	United	2463150
17 Gulf Bridge	Sagar Shabreen	2432692
20 Azalea	Agar	4347815
SHIPS EXPECTED AT SHUWAH PORT		
ETA Ship's name	Agent	TEL. NO.
4/3 Norasia Arabia	Emad Bahar	4814873
4/3 Shazam	Indi Shing	2441860
SHIPS DISCHARGING AT SHUWAH PORT		
ETA Ship's name	Agent	TEL. NO.
3/3 Cape Breton	Algh Barwil	4842988
3/3 Harmony Slove	KMDMC	2432435
3/3 Al Mirqab	UASC	4843150
4/3 Promethes	ISA	2441860
8/3 Madonna Lily	Algh Barwil	4842988
11/3 Ood Charity	Agar	4347815
17/3 Ibn Majid	UASC	4843150

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BUSINESS



Abdul Latif Al Hamad

Arab Fund signs two loan pacts

KUWAIT, March 3. (Kuna): The Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development today signed two loan agreements to finance two projects in the Yemen Arab Republic by KD8.5 million.

The two agreements were signed by the board chairman and managing director of the fund Abdul Latif Yousef Al Hamad and the North Yemeni Deputy Premier and Minister of Development Dr Mohammed Saeed Al Attar who is the head of the Yemeni central planning apparatus.

The first KD5.5 million project aims at increasing the agricultural and fish production and improving the income of farmers and fishermen through supporting the ability of the co-operative agricultural credit bank to give loans.

The project also aims at improving the living standard of about 67,000 peoples living in rural areas.

The project, which is expected to be completed by mid-1996, includes buying seasonal requirements and irrigation equipment, land reclamation and developing the animal production and fishing boats and equipment.

The loan is repayable over a period of 25 years, including a period of grace for eight years, and carries an interest rate of 3 per cent a year.

As for the second KD3 million project, it aims at developing the transport service and backing the agricultural production in Heja province and the Tuhama valleys and improving transportation between agricultural and marketing areas.

Shekel devalued

OCCUPIED Jerusalem, March 3. (Reuters): The Bank of Israel devalued the shekel today for the second time within 24 hours, dropping it 2.32 per cent to 2.0094 to the dollar, a bank spokesman said.

The shekel fell 2.09 per cent against a dollar-dominated basket of currencies to 2.1390 shekels to the basket unit.

It has been devalued against the dollar by a total of 2.55 per cent since Thursday morning, far less than a six per cent devaluation predicted by the Central Bank on Wednesday.

Currency rates

KUWAIT, March 3. (Kuna): Following are the international currency rates as quoted by local banks and announced by the Central Bank of Kuwait today.		
	Buying	Selling
US dollar	0.29267	0.29382
Sterling	0.481205	0.48266
DM	0.170002	0.171074
Sw. Fr.	0.193309	0.194454
F.F.	0.050373	0.050658
Ilira	0.000230	0.000233
Japan	0.001944	0.001957
Bah. din.	0.776107	0.777973
UAE Dirh.	0.079659	0.080160
S. riyal	0.078003	0.078771
Q. riyal	0.080359	0.080764
O. riyal	0.759885	0.0763565

Interest rates

KUWAIT, March 3. (Kuna): Following are the average KD interest rates of local interbank transactions as reported by participants to Central Bank of Kuwait today.		
Period	Bid	Offered
1 month	8-1/2	8-3/4
3 months	8-1/2	8-3/4
6 months	8-1/2	8-3/4
1 year	8-1/2	8-3/4

Exchange Rates

Indian Rupee	17.260
Sri Lankan rupee	7.420
Pakistani rupee	13.810
Bangladesh taka	9.050
US dollar	29370
Pound sterling	48500
UAE dirham	07971
Japanese yen	001961

CHANGES in the main items of the aggregate balance sheet of local banks (commercial and specialised) at the end of December 1989 indicate an increase in local operations of these banks — on both sides of financial resources and uses — to reach 84.8 per cent of the total activity of these banks, exceeding its level (79.6 per cent) in the previous month, against a decrease in the ratio of foreign activity from 20.4 per cent to 15.2 per cent.

It has been noticed that about 90.5 of total fund resources, which were available to local banks, came from local sources and 79 per cent of their total use of funds was directed to local activities, according to Central Bank of Kuwait's

Monetary Review.

As a result of these developments, the total aggregate balance sheet of local banks reached to KD13,163 million at the end of December 1989, a decrease of 3.5 per cent (KD473 million) below its level at the end of the previous month. This decline, on the side of assets, is attributed to a decrease of 4 per cent (KD421 million) in local assets and 1.6 per cent (KD52 million) in foreign assets.

On the side of liabilities, it is attributed to a decrease of 3 per cent (KD359 million) in local liabilities and 6.4 per cent (KD114 million) in foreign liabilities.

Meanwhile, local banks' claims in

KD on the Central Bank increased by KD22 million and the Central Bank's claims in KD on local banks decreased by KD 8 million as a result of a decrease in swap operations (KD12 million) and an increase in discount operations (KD4 million).

As a result, the net balance of the Central Bank in KD with local banks declined by KD30 million below its level in the previous month to reach KD308 million at the end of December 1989.

As for public debt instruments, the Central Bank of Kuwait offered in December 1989 four issues of treasury bills (from issue No. 81 to issue No. 84), totalling KD595 million. Four

previous issues of these bills (from issue No. 68 to issue No. 71), totalling KD500 million, matured. Thus the outstanding balance of these bills increased to reach KD1,816 million, an increase of 5.5 per cent (KD95 million) over the previous month.

During December 1989 no issues of treasury bonds were offered. Meanwhile, four previous issues of these bonds (a bracket of issue No. 2, issue No. 29, issue No. 31, and issue No. 33) totalling KD75 million, matured. Thus the outstanding balance of treasury bonds declined to KD370 million.

As a result of these developments, the outstanding balance of public debt in-

struments (treasury bills and bonds) increased by KD20 million (0.9 per cent) over the previous month, totalling KD1,836 million at the end of December 1989.

In December 1989 the KD exchange rate realised relative improvement (1.13 per cent) against the US dollar, as the US dollar exchange rate ranged between 292.38 fils and 296.63 fils, a monthly average of 295.09 fils. Against other major currencies, the KD performance was mixed as, for example, it increased against both the Japanese yen (1.36 per cent) and the pound sterling (0.12 per cent) and decreased against both the Deutsche mark (3.79 per cent) and French franc (3.17 per cent). In

general, the KD performance against major currencies was more stable than that of the US dollar against the same currencies because the US dollar declined at rates (4.87 per cent against the Deutsche mark and 4.25 per cent against the French franc) higher than the rates of the KD decline against these currencies.

As for interest rates in the money market, they declined slightly on inter-bank KD deposits at rates ranging between 1.45 per cent (from 8.40 per cent to 8.28 per cent) on one-year deposits and 0.30 per cent (from 8.43 per cent to 8.42 per cent) and (from 8.43 per cent to 8.41 per cent) on both one-month and three-month deposits respectively.

Bush, Kaifu discuss US-Japan ties, trade

Stable currency markets needed

PALM SPRINGS, Calif., March 3. (Agencies): US President George Bush raised specific trade issues he wants Tokyo to solve quickly when he met Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu yesterday, a senior Japanese Foreign Ministry official said.

"President Bush did refer to the need to solve bilateral trade problems early and mentioned specific trade issues he sees of particular importance," the official told reporters today.

The issues included trade in satellites, supercomputers and forest products, areas in which the United States says Japan has unfairly restricted imports.

Kaifu told journalists late on Friday that he would seek US co-operation in stabilising volatile currency markets when he and Bush met again today.

The Japanese leader said wild fluctuations in exchange rates were "absolutely undesirable" and must be countered.

"It is quite natural that Japan and America will co-operate on the currency markets, and without this no effective countermeasures can be worked out," he said.

Japan's Kyodo News Agency said Kaifu also saw wider co-operation on currency markets with other major trading nations.

"I will request President Bush for co-operation among the major industrialised countries to bring about stability in foreign exchange markets," Kyodo quoted him as saying.

The dollar rose above 150 yen in Tokyo on Friday for the first time since last June, prompting the Bank of Japan to intervene heavily in exchange markets to defend the currency.

Bush, under growing pressure to retaliate against Japanese industries accused of unfair trade practices, said on the eve of the talks: "We've got to convince him (Kaifu) that we've got to move forward with some of the tough problems."

The stock at \$49 billion in 1989, down only marginally from 52 billion in 1988. It posted a record \$56 billion deficit in 1986.

Japanese officials said Bush noted on Friday that "difficult economic problems" existed between the two countries, naming Japanese trade practices that were claimed as unfair under the so-called Super 301 clause



Kaifu (left) shakes hands with Bush in California. (Reuters wirephoto)

of the US 1988 trade act.

Under the provision, if Washington cites a country by name for unfair trading practices, proceedings are required against every unfair practice listed for that country.

Last May, the administration decided to apply this to Japan, claiming Tokyo had unfairly resisted imports of satellites, supercomputers and forest products.

A Foreign Ministry official said in Tokyo earlier this week the two leaders were unlikely to talk about

specific trade problems because the meeting was not going to be a negotiating session.

But states were especially high following the third round of Structural Impediments Initiative (SII) talks last week in Tokyo, which failed to satisfy US demands that Japan act quickly to help cut its snowballing trade surplus with the United States.

The SII talks, the latest series of US-Japan consultations that aim at lowering barriers to imports, have developed into a big trade dispute

between the two nations.

Kaifu told journalists travelling with him: "I sincerely endeavour to solve these problems from the point of view of the general public." But he was vague on how to do so, saying he would have to co-ordinate conflicting interests at home.

Some of the structural barriers Washington demanded Japan reform include investment, savings, land policy, distribution, exclusive business practices and pricing.

None of these barriers could be eliminated unless Kaifu exerts strong political leadership in persuading domestic interest groups who have benefited from them, analysts said.

White House Press Secretary Martin Fitzwater said Bush assured Kaifu that US force reductions would not affect "deterrence or stability" in Asia. A bid to have Japan pay more of the cost of its own defence was raised and greeted with agreement on "the need for suitable arrangements for balanced cost-sharing," Fitzwater said.

Atmospheres dominated. Any doubt of that was dispelled by Fitzwater, who said Bush's goal was to "lay a conceptual framework" for the two countries to "realise the full potential" of their relationship.

Bush characterised Kaifu's 24-hour visit, coming after his re-election and a speech to parliament, as a "significant gesture" and "strong indication" of the importance of US-Japanese relations.

No one predicted breakthroughs on a set of complex trade disputes rooted in cultural, economic and political differences.

Indeed, both sides worked to minimise expectations and separate the meeting from frustration produced by the sluggish pace of talks to remove structural causes of an almost \$50 billion US trade deficit with Japan.

However, neither side could deny the timeliness, coming as those negotiations near a deadline for interim progress and as the administration weighs retaliation and the initiation of new unfair-trade complaints against Japan.

Japan, on the other hand, contends the United States has its own bad habits to blame — including a low savings rate, short-sighted corporate strategies, over-regulation and inadequate research and development — for any loss of competitive edge.

Tehran raises minimum wage

NICOSIA, March 3. (Reuters): Iran, with inflation officially recorded at 28.5 per cent a year, said today it was raising the minimum wage by 20 per cent.

Tehran radio said the minimum daily wage would be raised to 1,000 rials (\$14 at the official exchange rate) as of March 21, the beginning of the Iranian new year.

Minimum take-home pay, including allowances, would be 32,400 rials (\$463) a month for single workers and 45,000 rials (\$643) for married workers, it added.

Iran last increased the minimum daily wage in March 1988.



Weary stock brokers at the Tokyo Exchange watch as a hectic week comes to an end during Friday's trading session. Share prices closed at 34,057.56 up 227.98 points. (Reuters wirephoto)

US stocks gain momentum

Rate rise report denied

TOKYO, March 3. (Agencies): A senior Bank of Japan (BOJ) official denied today a local Tokyo press report that the central bank had started negotiations with the Finance Ministry to raise the official discount rate by 0.75 per cent early next week.

The press report was just speculation and not based on the fact at all," he told Reuters.

The daily newspaper Mainichi Shimbun, which published the report, gave no source for its information. It said the BOJ would make a final decision on raising the 4.25 per cent discount rate after watching developments in stock and currency markets next week.

The official discount rate is the cheapest rate at which the BOJ lends money to banks.

The BOJ official said the central bank was still monitoring the effect on the economy of three discount rate increases last year.

The bank is also carefully watching what effect the current weakness of the yen against the dollar may have on domestic prices, he said.

The yen briefly reached 150 yen against the dollar in Tokyo yesterday, its lowest level for more than eight months. It closed in New York on Friday at 150.22/32 to the dollar.

Tokyo money market sources predicted that the US dollar's value would further increase against the Japanese yen next week due to the continuing demand for the greenback. The dollar had closed the week at 149.75 yen which was 3.28 yen higher than its last week closing. Dealers expect the dollar to range between 149 and 152 yen the coming week.

They said that the American currency gained as a result of expectations of the yen's weakness and soaring demand by local companies on the dollar.

The dealers pointed out that the Bank of Japan had sold \$8 billion this week to boost the faltering yen and expect the trend to continue next week but speculated that its intervention would not secure much because the dollars will be soon absorbed by needy customers.

The governor of the Bank of Japan will next week leave for Europe to hold talks with senior monetary officials and experts in Britain and West Germany and attend a meeting for the International Settlements Bank in Basel, Switzerland.

US stocks gained momentum yesterday and cruised to their fifth straight advance as buyers were swept up by enthusiasm in the market's best week since October.

The Dow Jones industrial average rose 24.77 points or 0.67 per cent to close at 3,660.36.

Volume was moderate with 164.3 million shares changing hands on the New York Stock Exchange, compared with 157.9 million on Thursday. Gainers outpaced losers, 976 to 474.

For the week, the closely watched Dow index rose 96.17 points, or 2.75 per cent, its best performance since the week following last year's October "mini-crash."

"All things considered, the market is acting very well," said James Andrews, Janney Montgomery Scott's head of institutional trading. "It's showing character."

Some analysts said the stock market's strong performance this week was the culmination of several weeks of surprising resiliency against negative developments, including the collapse of brokerage Drexel Burnham Lambert and turmoil in Japanese financial markets.

"The key was Monday, when the Japanese market got taken apart and we rallied," said one trader. Blue chips rose 38 points on Monday despite a 4.5 per cent drop in 22 Japanese stocks.

On Friday, Tokyo's key Nikkei index rose 227.98 points or 0.67 per cent to 34,057.56.

The US market's apparent ability to weather negative developments drew in buyers through the week, analysts said.

"I think people are cautiously optimistic," said Paul Hennessey, vice president in trading at the Boston Co. He said this week's performance "indicates that the market certainly responds very quickly."

Stocks were buoyed yesterday by higher treasury bond prices, which rose on news of a 7.1 per cent drop in US home sales, hinting that interest rates might come down.

The Dow Jones average of 30 industrial stocks closed at 2,660.36, climbing 24.77 on Friday which brought its gain for the week to 96.17 points.

Other readings for the week showed the New York Stock Exchange composite index of all its listed common stocks rose 5.62 to 184.97; the Nasdaq composite index for the over-the-counter market rose 11.50 to 431.02; and the American Stock Exchange's market value index rose 5.02 to 356.12.

Big Board volume averaged 161.6 million shares a day, up from 159.8 million daily in the prior week.

ped the stock market rally Friday to extend its winning streak to five straight sessions.

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News on the leading indicators helped

Wall Street watch

US bulls take the driver's seat on Wall Street despite shaky Tokyo market

NEW YORK, March 3. (AP): Bulls took the driver's seat on Wall Street this past week despite a shaky Tokyo market and a slew of divergent economic signals.

Tokyo's problems actually helped improve the attitude toward US stocks, while investors decided America's economic pluses now outweighed the minuses.

"We're not quite as bad as we had been viewed six months ago ... at the same time things aren't quite as good everywhere else," said Thomas Czech, chairman of the investment committee at Blunt Ellis and Loewi Inc. in Milwaukee.

Everywhere else mainly means

Japan. The Tokyo stock market has been on a slide, with its steepest Monday-day with its second-largest point loss ever. A 4.5 per cent drop expanded the fall in the Nikkei average of 225 Japanese stocks to around 14 per cent since the start of the year.

To foreigners who for a long time have suspiciously eyed Tokyo's high price-earnings ratios, the downturn came as no surprise.

Some ratios of stock prices to company earnings there had reached as high as 60 to 1, making Japanese stocks seem widely overvalued to buttoned-down US investors accustomed to far more conservative readings here.

At least some of the money that has

flowed out of Japanese stocks has found a home in the United States.

Hugh Johnson, senior vice president and chief investment officer at First Albany Corp., in Albany, New York, said anecdotal evidence, based on discussions with colleagues in the investment community, suggests that US investors have been pulling out of Japan. To some extent, similar manoeuvres are being carried out by Japanese and West German money managers.

"This is the equity market's version of a flight to safety — the safety of lower price-earnings ratios from the exposure of high price-earnings ratios," he said.

An indication that more capital is

flowing in to the United States was that the dollar soared on Friday, prompting various central banks to sell dollars on world foreign-exchange markets to check the currency's run-up.

The US role as a safe haven was enhanced by reports that, on balance, implied the economy might be doing better than some gloom-and-doomers feared.

A February survey of purchasing managers at the nation's industrial corporations, issued Thursday, showed the slowdown in the manufacturing sector eased. The National Association of Purchasing Management's widely watched index rose to 48.3 per cent in February from 45.2 per cent a month

earlier.

A reading below 50 means manufacturing is declining, but the improvement from January was nonetheless encouraging.

On Friday, the index of leading economic activity six to nine months ahead, showed no change in January. The flat reading followed two months of increase, but seemed to support the view that we're in a no-boom, no-bust trajectory," Johnson of First Albany said.

"The message of the financial markets today is that we will miss a recession," the analyst said.

News on the leading indicators helped

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Tewksbury sets another world record

SASKATOON, Saskatchewan, March 3. (Reuters): Canadian Mark Tewksbury set his second world best in as many days when he lowered the short-course standard in the 50-metre backstroke at Canada's National Swimming Championships yesterday.

Tewksbury posted a time of 25.06 seconds beating the previous mark of 25.10 set less than three weeks ago by Daischi Suzuki of Japan. On Thursday, the lanky Canadian set a world best of 53.69 seconds in the 100-metre backstroke.

Tewksbury said he was almost lost the 50-metre record in the final few metres.

"The 50 metres is just go, go, go, all the way," Tewksbury said after the race. "I wasn't sure I could get the record, but I thought I had a good shot."

"It sure felt fantastic to do it," the dark-haired swimmer said with a grin.

"I got in a good turn, but I jammed the touch at the end," he said, still dripping from the pool at the Harry Bailey Aquatic Centre. "I was right on, barely on — not a millimetre to spare."

Sanchez consolidates position Agassi outplays Mayotte



Agassi fought back for victory

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz., March 3. (Reuters): American Andre Agassi had a shaky start but still came through a winner in a round robin competition at the \$300,000 Scottsdale Open yesterday.

Agassi, the highest ranked player in the eight-man exhibition, beat fellow American Tim Mayotte 2-6 6-3 6-2 after struggling to overcome a series of backhand errors.

Earlier, Emilio Sanchez of Spain consolidated his position as leader in the points standing with a 6-3 2-6 6-1 win over American Pete Sampras. Sanchez is the only player not to have lost a match. In a later match, Jay Berger defeated fellow American Aaron Krickstein 6-4 1-6 6-2.

Agassi, ranked six, fell behind quickly in the first set against the eighth ranked Mayotte, as the big-serving American attacked Agassi's error-prone backhand to win the set 6-2.

But at 2-2 in the second set, Agassi suddenly went into high gear as Mayotte's serve failed him at crucial moments.

Mayotte double-faulted to fall behind 4-2 and Agassi embarked on a streak which saw him win eight of nine straight games, taking the second set 6-3 and forging a 4-0 lead in the third.

Agassi pounced on Mayotte's

serve, blasting returns and passing shots before Mayotte fought back briefly to 5-2. But Agassi took the match 6-2 on his favourite shot, a forehand winner.

"The further the match went on, the more comfortable I felt," Agassi said. "I started playing much more aggressively. When I got a short ball, I wasn't scared to do something with it."

Mayotte admitted his errors cost him dearly.

"I was looking for a way to hurt him but I was just making too many errors," Mayotte said.

And in Memphis, Tenn., sixth-seeded Wally Masur of Australia survived the last battle of the seeds at the Memphis Indoor Tennis Tournament yesterday to reach the semifinals of the \$250,000 event.

Masur defeated 13th seed Petr Korda of Czechoslovakia 6-4 7-5 for the fourth semifinal berth in this upset-filled tournament. The other quarterfinal matches were contested by unseeded players.

Masur, who led Australia to a Davis Cup victory over France last January, was to meet American Glenn Layendecker, a 5-7 6-6 4 winner over Finland's Veli Paloheimo in today's semifinals.

Gary Muller of South Africa and West German Michael

Stich were to play in the other semifinal.

Muller beat fellow South African Danie Visser 7-5 7-5 to reach his first tour semifinal ever. Stich defeated American qualifier Malivai Washington 6-4 7-6.

Muller, ranked 104, hopes his dream run here will carry to the final.

"In the beginning of the week if you told me that I'd make the quarter-finals, I might have taken it," said Muller, who had been in five quarterfinals prior to this tournament. "Now that I'm in the semis, I want to go all the way."

Muller stopped top seed Stefan Edberg of Sweden in the second round and 15th-seeded American Jimmy Arias in the third round to reach the quarters. Three weeks ago, he collected another impressive win when he ousted top seed Brad Gilbert in San Francisco.

"What's gone against him is his inability to take every match seriously," Visser said. "He goes out there a lot of times and doesn't concentrate — he likes to try fancy shots and goof around. Maybe he's finally matured."

Paloheimo had a match point on Layendecker's serve in the 10th game of the set.



Navratilova sails through

INDIAN WELLS, California, March 3. (Reuters): Top-seeded Martina Navratilova continued her winning ways with a 6-2 6-1 thumping of Nathalie Herremann of France yesterday to advance to the semifinals of the \$350,000 Indian Wells women's tennis tournament.

Eleventh-seeded Amy Frazier, who won a tournament in Wichita earlier this year, pulled off her second consecutive upset here when the 17-year-old American outplayed eighth seed Rosalyn Fairbank of South Africa 6-2 6-3.

In the semifinals Frazier meets third-seeded Helena Sukova of Czechoslovakia, who eliminated number 15 Isabelle Demongeot of France 6-4 6-3 in the most competitive quarterfinal match.

Navratilova, who has dropped just 37 games in 12 matches this year and won two consecutive tournaments, faces fifth seed Katerina Maleeva of Bulgaria, a 6-1 6-2 winner over unseeded American Meredith McGrath.

Navratilova, ranked second in the world, had no problems with Herremann, who had difficulty passing the world number two with her sliced backhand and erratic topspin forehand strokes.

After winning all three of her matches this week in less than an hour, Navratilova said that nothing in her game could be going better.

"Everything is clicking like it should. I can't really say any of my shots are not where I want them to be. I mean, some require a little tweaking, but I couldn't be more satisfied with my game now," said Navratilova.

Dumlao beats Calasin in 2nd round

THE second round matches of the first rated chess tournament organised by the Filipino Chess Club in Kuwait "Filcheck" was held on Friday at the new Kabayan Restaurant.

In Group A, Niel Dumlao prevailed over Danny Calasin when the latter playing black pieces blundered in his 9th move of a Sicilian defence. A few moves later, Calasin had to sacrifice a bishop to save his queen but Dumlao's overwhelming

positional and material advantage forced Calasin to resign after 28 moves. Dumlao now has 2 points together with Ingemar Vendicla and Edwin Borigas who both won over Romy Velayo and Rene Mostrales respectively.

In Group B, newcomers Dads Pates, Jun Alejandro and Alex Espedilla continue to dominate the group by beating their respective opponents. All has two wins together with oldtimer Gil Opiana Jr outwitted Ahmad Hus-

sain in a queen's gambit decline.

As per tournament rules, the following participants who have defaulted two consecutive matches are considered: withdrawn from the rest of the games: Chito Barrios, Wabab Alamada, Jigs Acodisen, Nonoy Caro, Vic Corput and Robert Dair. Mont Cortado and Romy Velayo have signified their intention to withdraw and has been accepted by the board.

The champion and the three runners-up of both group will each receive valuable gift items from Adawiah Electronics, distributor of Kaspov Chess Computers and Seven-Up Bottling Company and a trophy donated by Telco (No-Kilo) International.

The third round of the 7-round Swiss system tournament will be played as scheduled on Friday, March 9 at the Kabayan Restaurant.

Third round schedule Friday		Group A (12.00 noon)	
W vs. B	W vs. B	W vs. B	W vs. B
19 vs. 8	3 vs. 18	19 vs. 8	3 vs. 18
17 vs. 2	11 vs. 14	17 vs. 2	11 vs. 14
3 vs. 10	1 vs. 8	3 vs. 10	1 vs. 8
15 vs. 6	7 vs. 12	15 vs. 6	7 vs. 12
1 vs. 16	9 vs. 13	1 vs. 16	9 vs. 13
5 vs. 14	19 vs. 16	5 vs. 14	19 vs. 16
9 vs. 13	15 vs. 22	9 vs. 13	15 vs. 22
4 vs. 18	5 vs. 4	4 vs. 18	5 vs. 4
7 vs. 20	17 vs. 12	7 vs. 20	17 vs. 12



Filcheck members during Friday's games.

Kemper Open

MAUI, Hawaii, March 3. (Reuters): Mitzi Edge held up strong against 48-kph winds to shoot a steady, even-par 71 for a two-stroke lead over Laura Davies of Britain after two rounds of the \$500,000 Women's Kemper Open golf tournament.

Edge, one of a trio sharing the overnight lead, stood at three-under-par 139. Davies also played an even-par round to stand at 141.

Cathy Gerring, after another 71, was one stroke behind Davies.

Azinger, Couples share top spot

MIAMI, March 3. (Reuters): Paul Azinger used a blistering start to shoot a 66 that left him tied with Fred Couples at 10-under-par 134 after two rounds of the \$1.4 million Doral Open golf tournament yesterday.

Couples, winner of the Los Angeles Open last week, shot his second straight 67 over the Doral Country Club course for his share of the lead.

British Open champion Mark Caldecovich added a 67 to his opening day 68 to stand alone at 135. Tom Purtzer was two more shots back after a 70.

Azinger started with an eagle on the first hole and birdies on the second and third. He also closed fast with birdies at the 16th and 18th holes.

"There's room for improvement," Azinger said. "But I chipped and putted well today."

For his eagle on the 514-yard first hole, Azinger hit a 5-iron second shot to within nine feet and holed the putt.

Couples also started strong. He birdied four of the first eight holes and added another at the 11th. After a bogey at 13 he came back with a 10-foot birdie putt at the 16th.

Woosnam hits 68 for 2-shot lead

MARBELLA, Spain, March 3. (Reuters): Britain's Ian Woosnam marked his 32nd birthday by seizing the halfway lead in the Mediterranean Open golf tournament on a day when Severiano Ballesteros' triumph in a slow play complaint.

Ballesteros, Ireland's Eamonn Darcy and playing partner Vijay Singh of Fiji were the subject of an official slow play complaint by British Ryder Cup international Ken Brown during yesterday's second round.

Brown, fined £250 (\$412) for slow play in last weekend's Desert Classic at Dubai, was playing behind the trio and said: "They were 25 minutes behind the match in front of them and we had to wait all day. You can't have one rule for the rest of us and another for Ballesteros."

European PGA tournament director John Paramour took no action, admitting the three players were timed for seven holes but insisting there were no breaches of the Tour's new pace-of-play charter.

Woosnam, meanwhile, produced a repeat of his opening 68 to take a two-stroke lead in the £400,000 (\$660,000) event at Las Brisas.

The Welsh Ryder Cup player, making his first appearance of the season, took advantage of calmer conditions in early morning to collect three birdies and an eagle to move eight-under-par on a total of 136.

Woosnam captured the lead from fellow Briton Mark James, who returned a 71 in the high winds that blew up later in the day and now shares second spot on 138 with Spain's Miguel Angel Jimenez (69).

Neal Briggs of Britain, who gained his European Tour card by topping last year's satellite circuit Order of Merit, shot 69 to share fourth place on 141 with Argentina's Eduardo Romero and Swede Mats Lanner, who had 71s, and Zimbabwe's Mark McNulty, who shot 69.

Ballesteros dropped two strokes in the last four holes for a 74 and joint 17th place on the level par 144 mark. Darcy, winner of the Desert Classic, also shot 74 for the exact qualifying score of 149.

Prost and Ferrari to challenge McLaren

LONDON, March 3. (Reuters): World champion Alain Prost's close season move from McLaren to Ferrari has ensured that the 1990 Formula One World Championship, which opens in Phoenix, Arizona on March 11, will provide another year of fierce rivalry between the two leading teams and their drivers.

Prost, who clinched his third crown in acrimonious circumstances at last October's Japanese Grand Prix, felt his 1989 triumph had a hollow ring after the disqualification and subsequent appeals and punishment of Brazilian Ayrton Senna.

Now, fired by his move to join the famous Italian team, he is determined to help Ferrari claim their first constructors' triumph since 1983 and first drivers' title since South African Jody Scheckter's win in 1979.

"Now McLaren is in my past," he said. "I really feel part of Ferrari. Of course, I want to win the drivers' title myself — but the main thing for me this year is to see Ferrari beat McLaren to win the team title."

"If Nigel (Mansell) wins the drivers' title instead of me, it will still be a victory for me to be a part of the winning team. Nigel and I have been friends for a long time and we think the same way about motor racing."

Without saying so, Prost retains a powerful determination



Senna (right) listens to a McLaren technician before a private test session at the Estoril track in Lisbon. (Reuters wirephoto)

to out-race his former McLaren team-mate and rival Senna and also to assist in ending Honda's domination of Formula One in recent years.

The Japanese manufacturers supply the engines which have powered McLaren, and previously Williams, to their triumphs of the last four years. They are respected, but without any affection, by their rivals.

McLaren, however, will remain the team to beat.

closely followed by Williams and Benetton.

Williams, after a settling-in year with Renault engines, will this year be hoping for more than the two Grand Prix wins they achieved last year in Canada and Australia. They have retained last year's driver line-up of Belgian Thierry Boutsen and Italian Riccardo Patrese.

Benetton, having signed former champion Nelson Piquet of Brazil to team up with Italian Alessandro Nannini, will also hope to improve on last year's performance which saw them record their second win in the controversial race at Suzuka.

The team have been boosted by the arrival of John Barnard, formerly chief designer at Ferrari, whose long-term work and revisions to the current car will ensure improvements in handling and could see them emerge as the most serious threat to the McLaren-Ferrari domination this year.

Barnard himself expects to see Ferrari challenge very strongly for the championship this year in the car he designed for them.

"I would have liked to stay on and do some development work for them, but it did not work out that way. I think they (Ferrari) have a very good chance of winning the championship this year and I like to think I played a significant part in that."

A number of other close-

season moves have changed the face of Grand Prix racing since the rain-hit Australian Grand Prix in Adelaide last November.

Lotus, who last year endured one of the worst seasons, have completely rewarded their team.

They will start the season with two new drivers in Britons Derek Warwick and Martin Donnelly and a new engine in the Lamborghini V-12, which proved full of promise in its first season with Lola last year.

Tyrrell have also undergone several changes and will begin with former Lotus driver Satoru Nakajima of Japan partnering Frenchman Jean Alesi in one of the sleekest cars of all.

Arrows, hugely disappointing last year, have replaced Warwick and American Eddie Cheever with two Italians in Michele Alboreto and Alex Caffi.

Like Tyrrell, who will have Honda engines in 1991, they are planning ahead to next year, when they will have Porsche power, but they could be one of the surprises this season with a vastly improved chassis and resurgent enthusiasm following the team's purchase by a Japanese company.

It will be less surprising, however, to see the sport plunged once again into the sort of controversy which dogged it last year after a series of incidents involving Senna, Mansell and Prost.

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Hawks outplay Bucks

ATLANTA, March 3, (AP)—Dominique Wilkins scored a season-high 44 points and hit his 13th shot in a 19-for-22 performance, leading Atlanta Hawks to their fifth consecutive victory, 132-110 over the Milwaukee Bucks last night.

Wilkins' 3-pointer with 6:01 left in the third quarter broke a 70-70 tie and started an 11-0 run that put the Hawks in front to stay. Wilkins had two other baskets in that run.

Atlanta had a 117-101 lead when Wilkins left the game with 3:45 left. His previous best this season was 38 points at Philadelphia on Dec. 13.

Greg Anderson and Ricky Pierce led the Bucks with 24 points apiece.

Celtics 122, Heat 110
Kevin McHale scored 22 his 26 points in the second half, including nine during a key third-period run, as Boston beat Miami for its fourth consecutive victory.

Larry Bird had 28 points for the Celtics, who outscored the Heat 26-8 at the free-throw line and matched their longest winning streak of the season.

The Heat, who got 25 points from Ronny Seikaly, outscored the Celtics 8-2 to trail only 72-66 early in the third quarter. But McHale sparked a 15-5 spurt that allowed Boston to regain control, and the Celtics led by at least 12 points the rest of the way.

Pistons 115, 76ers 112
Joe Dumars scored a season-high 34 points and Detroit came back from a four-point deficit in the last six seconds of regulation to beat Philadelphia in overtime.

Dumars, averaging better than 90 per cent from the line, made 13 of 14 from the line in regulation and all five in overtime as Detroit beat the Sixers for the first time in three tries this season.

The Pistons improved to 26-3 at home and have won 17 of their last 18 games overall.

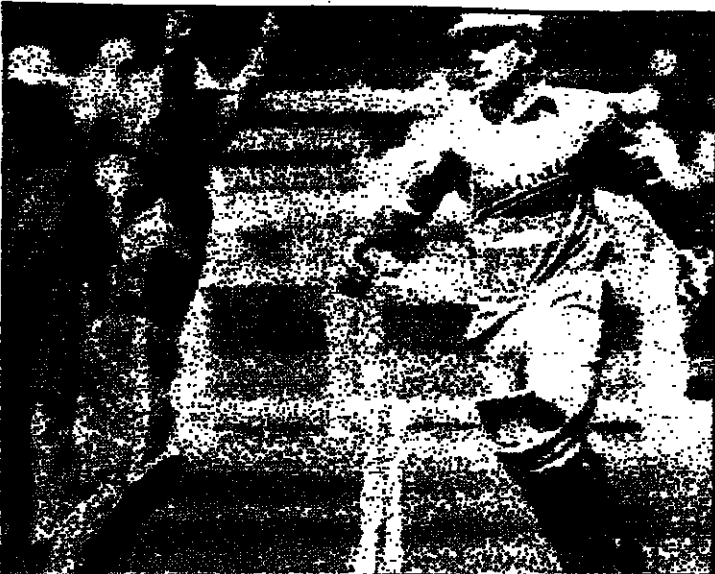
Charles Barkley led the 76ers with 26 points.

Bulls 112, Nets 91
Michael Jordan and Scottie Pippen each scored 23 points as Chicago defeated New Jersey 112-91 for its seventh consecutive victory and the Nets' 18th loss in 19 games.

Results		
Atlanta	132	Milwaukee 110
Boston	122	Heat 110
Chicago	112	New Jersey 91
Dallas	108	Phoenix 102
Detroit	115	Philadelphia 112
San Antonio	131	Golden State 115
Seattle	99	Minnesota 83
S.A. Lakers	124	Cleveland 93

Alderman named Man of the Match

Australia beat India



Indian wicketkeeper Kiran More (left) runs out Australia's Ian Healy. (Reuter wirephoto)



Alderman (right) congratulates Mark Taylor after he caught India's Wrocker Raman. (Reuter wirephoto)

CHRISTCHURCH, New Zealand, March 3, (Reuter): Australia beat India today in a tense one-day cricket match in which tight bowling kept down scoring by either side.

Australia, batting first on a good bowling wicket, were held to 187 for nine in their allotted 50 overs, with Allan Border and Dean Jones putting up their side's highest stand of 41. India were all out for 169.

The Australians were helped to a fighting total by a useful 25 from Ian Healy in the closing overs.

India began badly, losing both openers by the seventh over. Terry Alderman, named Man of the Match, then reduced them to 23 for three before coming back to turn the game decisively by taking the wicket of Kapil Dev in the 41st over.

Before Alderman's return, a quick stand of 44 by Kapil Dev and Manoj Prabhakar had revived Indian hopes and opened up the game. Kapil Dev fell to a catch by Jones and in the next over Prabhakar was caught at deep point by Steve Waugh off Carl Rackemann.

Alderman had Kiran More caught by Greg Campbell, and wrapped up the game by bowling Atul Wansan with five overs still to go. He finished with the impressive figures of five for 32 off his 10 overs.

Australia meet New Zealand tomorrow in what should be a keen tussle for the lead in the triangular series.

A decision will be made tomorrow on whether New Zealand pace bowler Richard Hadlee, suffering a hamstring problem, will play.

Scoreboard

AUSTRALIA:	INDIA:
M. Taylor st More b Hirwani 10	V. Chandrasekhar c Waugh b Alderman 8
D. Boon run out 22	W. Raman c Taylor b Alderman 2
D. Jones c Manjrekar b Hirwani 32	S. Manjrekar c Healy b Rackemann 2
A. Border run out 37	D. Vengarkar c Jones b Campbell 35
S. Waugh c Manjrekar b Kapil Dev 10	M. Azharuddin c Alderman b Taylor 26
O'Donnell lbw b Sharma 12	A. Sharma lbw O'Donnell 15
I. Healy run out 25	Kapil Dev c Jones b Alderman 27
P. Taylor not out 18	M. Prabhakar c Waugh b Rackemann 21
G. Campbell c More b Kapil Dev 0	K. More c Campbell b Alderman 8
C. Rackemann c Kapil Dev 0	A. Wansan b Alderman 4
Extras (lb-4, w-4, nb-3) 15	N. Hirwani not out 1
Total (for nine wickets in 50 overs) 187	Extras (lb-4, lb-2, w-3, nb-7) 1
Did not bat: T. Alderman	Total (all out in 45 overs) 169
Fall of wickets: 1-31 2-51 3-82 4-119 5-123 6-140 7-170 8-172 9-187	Fall of wickets: 1-52 2-143 3-234 4-255 5-268 6-285 7-300 8-315 9-326 10-331
Bowling: Kapil Dev 10-0-29-2 (nb-2, w-2), M. Prabhakar 10-3-35-1 (nb-1, w-1), A. Wansan 10-0-36-0, N. Hirwani 10-2-39-2, A. Sharma 10-0-40-1 (w-1)	Bowling: Alderman 10-2-32-5 (w-2), Rackemann 9-0-27-2 (w-1, nb-1), Campbell 8-0-29-1 (nb-5), O'Donnell 8-0-36-1 (nb-1), Taylor 10-2-39-1

Imran slams team's fielding

ISLAMABAD, March 3, (Kuma): Pakistan cricket captain Imran Khan has said the Pakistan cricket team is the poorest fielding side in the cricketing world, poor in ground fielding as well as catching.

This was one of the major reasons for its defeat in the just concluded tour of Australia, he said in a published interview yesterday.

Analysing the tour, the 38-year-old skipper particularly mentioned the second final of the World Series Cup match against Australia when "our fielding was literally worse than that of a club."

About the Test series Imran said that it was a story of dropped catches. "We were hard done by crucial umpiring decisions in the first match but nothing can excuse our fielding," he remarked.

Australia, on the other hand, took some brilliant catches, including that of Ijaz Ahmed by Geoff Marsh in Melbourne, he said.

Pakistan arrived home yesterday quietly and unceremoniously after losing Test series to Australia 1-0 in a

3-match series. In the World Series Cup it lost both the best of three finals to Australia.

Sri Lanka team which also toured Australia during the same period did better than Pakistan against Shield teams, he said and admitted that Sri Lankan performance against Shield sides was far superior to that of Pakistan.

Discussing the other major cause of batting failure, Imran said: "All I can say is that if three top players are missing from our side, we cannot even beat a young team let alone a Shield team minus its Test players."

"Unless we put our first class structure on a proper footing we will decline as a cricketing power," Imran said, adding: "And that decline has already begun."

A glaring example, Imran Khan went on to say, was "our batting." According to him Pakistan's class players of the 1970s were the batsmen produced by the country cricket.

He said Pakistan used Test cricket to train and teach because first class cricket is incapable of doing that.



Imran Khan

"We simply cannot produce a cricketer like Mark Taylor with our structure. Taylor went straight from Shield cricket to international cricket scoring 700 runs in his first season..." he said.

Asked how could a team (Pakistan) lose the World Series Cup so soon after winning the Sharjah and Nehru Cups, Imran replied: "The conditions are totally different. Our wickets we win because we have very good spinners. Wasim Akram is the best bowler in the world plus our batsmen score runs here. In Australia the wickets have bounced and occasionally they seam. On those wickets we don't have the batsmen to score runs."

Imran Khan also mentioned the plus points of the Pakistan team. These were according to him in the shape of Wasim Akram whose performance he described as "outstanding" and in the shape of young fast bowler Waqar Yonus and young spinner Mushtaq Ahmed. Both of whom performed better than others.

Replying to a question as to how



Participants of the PBAK Doubles Tournament.

PBAK officers inducted

By Sonny R. Mariano

THE Philippine Bowling Association in Kuwait (PBAK) held the induction of its officers for the year 1990-91 at the Ramada Al Salam Hotel. The event made formal the assumption of the different responsibilities of the elected officers led by president-elect Jimmy Tadena.

The ceremonies started with a welcome address from the guest speaker Fahd Al Ajmi, the secretary-general of the Kuwait Bowling Federation followed by a farewell message from the outgoing PBAK executive vice-president Ms Cora Paras, who did the honors on behalf of former PBAK president, Rico Pino.

As his first official task as PBAK president, Jimmy Tadena delivered an inspirational message and an overview of what he intends to accomplish in the duration of his term. He also paid tribute to the past officers for doing a very remarkable job in promoting unity not only among the Filipinos but also among members of varying nationalities.

To conclude the induction rites, Fahd Al Ajmi led the new officers in taking their oath and afterwards he presented to Jimmy Tadena a souvenir from the Kuwait Bowling Federation. As part of the programme hosted by Marie Palacios and Simon Jude Rivera, the Mabuhay dancers as well as Manny Regalario dished out entertainment numbers to the delight of the crowd.

The people responsible for the affair were headed by VP for social affairs Baby Penaloza assisted by Rudy Zabala, Flor Tongson, Tony Lacson, Emile Landrito, Joe Bilog, Gil Cusi, Danny Nabong, Bhe and Bennie Guismay.

For its first project PBAK '90 held its first tournament the Kuwait National Day-PBAK Doubles Tournament at the Holiday Inn bowling lanes on Feb 23-25. The format for both men and women's divisions called for the doubles partner to play a 4-game series each and the total score counted as their final score.

For the first time PBAK adapted the multiple entry system but in this case each player had to play with a different partner each time he or she played.

During the three-day tourney, all the available slots were taken which clearly showed the success of this year's initial event of PBAK.

After all the excitement and fund



Tadena (right) receives a plaque from Al Ajmi.



Celso Estrada (centre) with other winners.

and with the scores tallied, the winners were as follows:

Men's division: Champion: Mar Evangelista and Anukul Sae Tang (1318), 1st Runner-up: Tony Lacson and Ed DeLeon (1491), 2nd Runner-up: Bida Boria and Ernie Landrito (1463), 3rd Runner-up: Flor Tongson and Bida Ramos (1426), High game: Burt Ramos and Tony Lacson (432).

Women's division: Champion: Lynne Reyes and Eva Sabah (1346), Runner-up: Arleen Boncillo and Nitz Alinea (1270), High game: Lynne Reyes and Eva Sabah (380).

The successful outcome of this tournament can also be attributed to the organising committee led by tournament chairman Ernie Landrito, Jimmy Tadena, Joe Bilog, Burt Ramos, Flor Tongson and Sonny Mariano but most of all to all the members who have kept on supporting all the activities of the association.

The PBAK, its officers and members would also like to extend their congratulations to Celso Estrada for winning the Kuwait National Day Open Bowling Championship, held at the Kuwait Oil Company Sports Centre. The event held under the auspices of the Kuwait Bowling Federation was participated in by a number of top class bowlers with no less than the bowling World Cup champion from Qatar also joining the fray.

Celso's win was indeed a feat to remember and be proud of not only by PBAK but the whole Filipino community as well. Eva Sabah almost made it a double for the PBAK bowlers after she narrowly missed the title in the women's group by a mere two pin difference. But that don't spell any difference for she also was a champion in her own right and she too made the Filipino bowlers proud.

Coming up next! The Al Ghanim Open bowling tournament. Watch out for further details and information.

EEL, Overland, Al Ghanim, KPBC win

THE Kuwait Pinoy Basketball League (KPBL) continued its elimination round schedules on Friday drawing the usual basketball crowd despite the prevailing bad weather.

In the first game, EEL streaked to its second straight win at the expense of Nissan Al Babbain, 117-83. In the first half of the match, EEL 5' had their hands full with the Nissan quintet. The combination of Detera, Espinosa, Perez, Abajero and Garcia prove effective as they slowed down the pace enroute to a half-time deficit of only one point (44-43).

Early in the second half, Nissan even took the driver's seat 45-44 with time remaining at 19 minutes and 43 seconds. This, however, was their last time to taste the lead as they committed the mistake of keeping in tempo with their opponent. Using its height advantage and their fast-break plays, EEL exploded for 73 2nd half points, compared to Nissan's 40 points. With Garcia orchestrating the EEL plays they raced to a 20 points advantage 78-58 which ballooned to 34 at the sound of the final buzzer.

Top scorers on the EEL side were Garcia 19, Zalavaria 18, Dingson 18, Tuadles 16, Alojado 15, Lugo 14 and Molina 8. The Nissan quintet was led by Detera 21, Abajero 20, F. Perez 19, Espinosa 10 and Batic 6.

The Mabuhay Best Player of the Game was Arnel "Rambo" Dingson, for his all-round brilliance throughout the entire game. Besides scoring 18 points, he was instrumental in starting the EEL fastbreaks as he hauled down as many number of rebounds as the points that he scored.

Regulation
The second game between KDD and Overland Transport Co. was a tight contest compared to the first game. Overland, captaining on an undermanned KDD 5, squeaked past its opponent on split charities by Moya (32-31) with a 2 seconds left in regulation time. The result of the game however was immediately placed under "Protest" by the KDD 5 who

claimed that their loss was due to poor performance by the referees in the crucial moments of the match.

The first half saw KDD enjoying a 12 points lead (41-29) despite its 7 man line-up. "Rookie" Linganyan presided over the KDD offensive as he scored 16 1st-half points including 2 three-point shots and his team's first 8 markers. In the 2nd-half, foul trouble compounded by numerous fancy plays led to errors enabled the Overland squad to close in. "Billy Ray" Navarro, held to only 9 1st-half points exploded for 21 and anchored his team to a protest-marred hairline victory over KDD.

With less than a minute left in the ballgame, and KDD on top by 4 points, Overland's Martinez scored on a jumper from left quarter court bringing down KDD's lead to 2 points (81-79). In the ensuing play, KDD failed to convert and Overland's Ramalla scored the equaliser. KDD had the chance to wrap it up with 14 seconds left, but Gutierrez No. 2 of KDD elected to dribble from court to court instead of giving it to his pointguards Dominguez and Francisco. He eventually lost the ball, and Santos was able to rifle a pass to team-mate Moya for a fouled attempt under the basket with 2 seconds left. Moya made his first free throw and wisely missed the 2nd, for his team's 1st win in 2 outings. Overland was paced by

"Billy Ray" Navarro with 30 points, Pineda 22, Santos 9, Moya and Ramalla 6 apiece. KDD was led by Gutierrez and Linganyan with 24 each. DHL Ramirez 12, Dominguez 8, Rue 7. Pizarro was a big disappointment as he managed to score only 4 points during the entire ballgame.

The Mabuhay Best Player of the Game was "Billy Ray" Navarro for his game-high 30 points output.

Enjoying
The third game was between opening day losers Al Ghanim Freight and KRP-Kuwait Regency Palace. The contest was another cardiac game as favoured Al Ghanim had their hands full in containing "Speedy" Bolito. The first half ended with Al Ghanim enjoying a 4-point lead (41-37). Speedy Bolito had 18 1st-half points supported by Osorio with 11.

In the second half, both teams matched their half-time output and when the final horn sounded Al Ghanim was on top by 8 points (82-74). Nelson Garcia was the key man for Al Ghanim as he led them with 28 points despite being saddled with 4 personal fouls. He was ably supported by Ungco 18, Velasco 17, Dayao 10 and Zamora 3. KRP was again led by Speedy Bolito with 34 points. Only one player was able to score in twin digits that resulted in their bow-

ing out to their opponent Al Ghanim. Osorio managed to help Bolito with 17 markers but a 2-man game was not enough.

The Mabuhay Best Player of the Game was Al Ghanim's Nelson Garcia for his 28 points performance not to mention the several assists he had given to Ungco and his other team-mates.

The fourth and final game of the day was between Group 2 leaders, KPBC and KHC-Bayan. KPBC blasted the Mr X led KHC-Bayan. Final score was 97-73.

In the first half of this match KPBC successfully contained Mr X to only 5 1st-half points. KPBC's No. 33 "Kareem Abdul" Manuel was instrumental for Mr X's low output as he shadowed him wherever he went. KPBC however concentrated too much on this show-boating player and left the other KHC boys unmarked. Maquesias, Camacho, Soliman, Rosales and Lising combined for a total of 26 1st-half markers to keep them within striking distance of their virtual conquerors, half-time score was 37-32 in favour of KPBC.

The 2nd half was a same sequence as their first encounter in the recently held KPBL-One Day Championship. KPBC, asserting its strength under the boards exploded for 60 2nd-half points compared to KHC's 41. Mr X was able to score 22-2nd half markers, but this was not enough as KPBC's first stringers

hit their stride. The "Machoman from Adan" Edwin Castro, once again reasserted his supremacy over Mr X as he led his team with 18 points, and several rebounds plus blocked shots.

Lito de la Cruz, the 1987 KKK-MVP ably supported him with 18 points. Other KPBC top scorers were Barcelona with 14, the Carnation Baby-Domingo 13 and Arganoza 12. In its losing effort KHC-Bayan was paced by Mr X-Ortega with 27, Lising 12, Rosales 10, Abubo 7 and Maquesias 6.

The Mabuhay Best Player of the Game was Lito de la Cruz for his fine court generalship of his team, not to mention his 18 points and several assists.

The KPBL moves to its 4th playing day this coming Friday, March 9, 1990 with four games starting at 9:00 am. Friday's schedule is as follows: 9:00 am KAI vs Overland (2); 10:30 am KRP vs Nissan (1); 12:00 noon KPBC vs KDD (2); and 1:30 pm Trico vs Al Ghanim (1).

KPBL meeting
A KPBL meeting will be held today at the Mabuhay Restaurant at 7 pm. All concerned individuals have been asked to attend this crucial meeting that will centre on the following: 1. Games and schedules; 2. Special Ilave 1-2-9; 3. KPBL/Pizza Italia All Star game/March 23, 1990; 4. KPBL All Filipino basketball team; 5. Other KPBL projects; and 6. Awarding ceremonies.

The MVPs of all the four matches played on Friday receive their awards after the day's matches.

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Kasparov and Gelfand lead

LINARES, Spain, March 3, (Reuter): Soviet world champion Garry Kasparov and fellow countryman Boris Gelfand shared the lead going into the last round of the Linares chess tournament today.

Four matches adjourned from previous rounds were played yesterday, with the two Soviets leading the field with seven points.

Gelfand lost his adjourned ninth round game against Artur Yusupov, also of the Soviet Union, but defeated Ljubomir Ljubovlevic of Yugoslavia.

In another adjourned game Miguel Illescas (Spain) drew with Lajos Portisch (Hungary).

Trump sues Douglas

NEW YORK, March 3, (Reuter): The tangled Mike Tyson-James "Buster" Douglas affair took another twist yesterday when real estate magnate Donald Trump filed a suit accusing the Mirage Casino-Hotel in Las Vegas of interfering with his right to stage a rematch.

The suit, which also names Douglas and his manager John Johnson, says Trump had a binding contract for the rematch with Don King Productions, which claims the right to promote Douglas' next fight as the new champion.

Trump asked the Manhattan Federal Court for a court order that would keep his contract intact. He added that if the Mirage interfered with his plans to stage the rematch, he would seek damages of more than \$50 million.

Douglas, who knocked out the seemingly invincible Tyson on February 11 in Tokyo, was offered \$25 million by the Mirage to defend his title there against number one contender Evander Holyfield.

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Under the Patronage of Sheikh Basel Salem Sabah Al Salem Al Sabah.

The Kuwait International Automobile Club is holding the 3rd Round of the

Kuwait National Championship

on Friday 09.03.1990. The competing cars will start at 08:30 hours from the KUWAIT SEA CLUB towards SULAIBIKHAT and DOHA and are expected back to the same starting place at 17:00 hours. The Rally consists of 12 special stages. All competitors who wish to participate are kindly

asked to contact the (KT) Club before Monday 05.03.1990 in order to finish all Registration documents.

We would like to invite all our Marshals to contact the KT Motor Sports Division as soon as possible to finalise all preparations for the Rally.

Please contact Mr ABDULLA AL BARQAWI or Mr. SHAKER MUBARAK on Tel. 4832388 or 4832406.



Scots win, set up Grand Slam decider with England

CARDIFF, March 3, (Reuters): Scotland beat a revitalised Wales 13-9 at Cardiff Arms Park today, setting up a Five Nations Rugby Union title and Grand Slam decider with England in two weeks time.

Both sides notched a try apiece today, the difference in the score coming from the three penalties Scottish

fly half Craig Chalmers converted to only one penalty and a conversion by Welsh full back Paul Thornburn. Lock Damian Cronin stormed over in the Welsh corner after a quarter of an hour to open the scoring with a try which Gavin Hastings just failed to convert.

Wales, showing fresh fire under

new coach Ron Waldron who made six changes from the side thrashed by England at Twickenham two weeks ago, scored a try seven minutes into the second half in a brilliant movement involving more than half the team.

Wing Arthur Emyr squeezed past the Scottish defence on the left at the

end of an exciting series of passes. Play went from left to right before returning left via a sweet pass behind his back by Welsh scrum half and captain Robert Jones.

Thornburn's conversion put Wales back in the game only one point behind at 10-9.

But the Scots, unchanged so far in

the championship and the more rounded side, held the upper hand in the last quarter and went four points clear with Chalmers' third penalty.

Scotland and England, both unbeaten with maximum points from three outings, clash at Murrayfield on March 17. The Scots, who shared the title with France in 1986, will be look-

ing for their first Grand Slam since 1984, England their first since 1980. In Paris, France put heavy defeats by England and Scotland behind them with a 31-12 victory over Ireland today.

Two tries from Franck Mesnel and one from Patrice Lagisquet were enough to secure a comfortable

enough win but one which gave scant satisfaction against an Irish team which had little to offer.

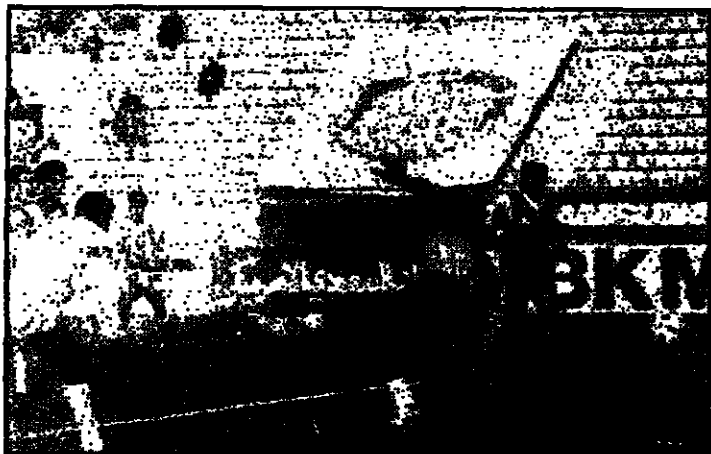
The French, still in a state of shock after two manlings in a month, were far from the fluent force which dominated European Rugby Union over the last decade.

Iraq hold UAE to 2-2 draw

Cup holders share top spot with Kuwait



Derjal brings down Thani.



Nasser Khamees (left) heads the ball past the Iraqi goalkeeper.

HOLDERS Iraq and World Cup finalists United Arab Emirates played to an exciting 2-2 draw yesterday in their 10th Arab Gulf Cup match at Kuwait's Peace and Friendship stadium.

Nasser Khamees, showing glimpses of his return to form, put UAE ahead in the 5th minute with a powerful header. Ahmad Radi replied for Iraq 20 minutes later with a shot from outside the penalty box to put Iraq on equal terms.

One minute into the injury time of the first half, Iraqi defender Adnan Derjal brought down UAE striker Ali Thani in the penalty area and Thani himself converted the resultant penalty to put UAE ahead 2-1. Derjal was later sent off for protesting against the referee's decision.

The second half was more exciting although Iraq played with 10 men. The Iraqis, however, managed to get a well-deserved equaliser just one minute from the final whistle when a UAE defender pulled down an Iraqi striker in the penalty box and Saad Qais converted easily from the spot.

UAE began the match without two of their main strikers, Fahd Khamees and Zuhair Bakheet, out through injury. They also missed their star midfielder player, Fahd Abdul Rahman, also through injury. In the third minute, Nasser Khamees shot from long range and hit the post. Two minutes later, Khamees headed home a good pass in front of the goal.

Realizing the danger of a determined UAE team, the Iraqis organised their lines and launched a number of organized attacks. They mainly depended

on the elegant veteran midfield player Nasser Hashem and the dangerous movements of Ahmad Radi.

The Iraqis displayed through true skills particularly in the second half and missed a number of golden opportunities. Hashem missed an easy chance when he was alone, only 6 metres away. His inaccurate shot went for a goal kick. The Iraqis again applied their efficient strategy of opening the field playing with two wingers who came forward from midfield.

Ahmad Radi in particular posed a continuous threat for the shaky UAE defence. They were greatly helped by UAE shrinking back and depending on counterattacks through long balls to their strikers who failed to threaten the Iraqi goal.

Iraq now lead the table with 4 points from three matches, ahead of Kuwait only on goal difference. UAE have only 3 points from three draws.



The Iraqis get their second goal. (Photos by Ahmad Burini and Munzur)

Bargain tame Bissan

IN the latest game played in the Kuwait Premier Football League, Bargain House returned to winning form with a hard earned victory over Bissan this week.

Bargain House went into the game without several key players, this resulted in them having to make a number of positional changes, one of which saw centre forward Dave Ball donning the goal-keepers jersey. Having started the game with only 10 men, Bargain House's problems were compounded after little more than 10 minutes when their influential mid-field player Karl Royle had to leave the field with a pulled muscle. Bissan gained the upper hand at this stage, and their pressure was rewarded with the first goal of the game. This setback appeared to spur the Bargain House team, who despite being outnumbered began to create the better scoring chances. Their efforts were rewarded shortly before half-time when a shot by Mahyer put them back on level terms.

Bissan's numerical advantage gave them the better of early exchanges in the second half and it was only good play by the overworked Bargain House defence which kept them at bay.

As the second half wore on the character of the Bargain House team again came to the fore and they began to take the game to the opposition. Their efforts paid dividend when hard-working midfielder Craig Swain drove the ball into the net to give his team a 2-1 lead. The game, however, was still open at this stage and it took a second goal from the same player to put the issue beyond doubt. The goal itself was worthy of winning this or any other game, the ball being struck from well outside the penalty area with such power and accuracy that the Bissan goal-keeper could only look on as it thundered into the back of the net.

No further goals were scored and the final whistle was blown with the score standing at Bargain House 3 Bissan 1.

Algeria rout Nigeria

ALGERS, March 3, (Reuters): Rabah Madjer and Djamel Menad scored two goals apiece to lead Algeria to an emphatic 5-1 victory over Nigeria in the opening match of the 17th African Nations Cup soccer tournament yesterday.

Algeria, hampered by heavy winds, went ahead in the 35th minute when an excellent pass from Cherif Oudiani set up Madjer, but they were unable to score again before the interval.

Madjer netted his second goal in the 59th minute, unleashing an Algerian goal spree. Menad scored in the 69th and 72nd minutes in quick

counter-attacks with Madjer.

The Algerians could have increased their lead but Oudiani and Djamel Amani both missed.

The Nigerians hit back with a consolation goal by Okasha in the 82nd minute.

Mohamed Rahim, promising newcomer in the Algerian squad, came on 10 minutes from the end and gave new inspiration to his side.

Amani brought 55,000 screaming fans to their feet with a final goal with three minutes to spare.

The Ivory Coast beat Egypt 3-1 (half-time 0-0) today in Group A of the African Nations Cup.



World title fight

Britain's Lloyd Honeyghan (left) and United States' Mark Breland at their weigh-in before their World Boxing Association welterweight title fight last night. Honeyghan took the opportunity of the weigh-in to blast Breland for earning his title by fighting a South African. (Reuters wirephoto)

Head coach

SAN JOSE, Costa Rica, March 3, (AP): Yugoslav Velibor "Bora" Milutinovic was named last night as the head coach for Costa Rica's World Cup soccer team.

This will mark the debut in World Cup play for this Central American country where soccer is a national passion.

"Costa Rica will not be a global power, but a surprise is possible because the world is full of surprises," Milutinovic told reporters.

Lazaroni favours Havelange's proposal

SAO PAULO, March 3, (Reuters): Brazilian national soccer coach Sebastiao Lazaroni said a proposal to divide matches into 25-minute quarters should be tried to see if the idea would work in practice.

Lazaroni was quoted in Brazilian newspapers yesterday as saying he favoured the proposal, championed by International Football Federation (Fifa) president Joao Havelange, which would depart from the traditional format of two 45-minute halves.

Lazaroni said the idea, aimed at allowing more television commercials and aired by

fellow Brazilian Havelange in last Sunday's O Globo newspaper, could bring "a new dynamism" into the sport.

Lazaroni suggested that the idea be tried out on junior teams. "It is necessary to test the theory in practice to evaluate the reactions of those involved in a soccer match from players to fans," he said.

Havelange told O Globo the notion of 25-minute quarters had been around for nearly 20 years. He said he had originally resisted it, feeling the time was not ripe.

"But with the evolution of time, experience and needs, I think it would be worthwhile

studying, examining and authorising a test," he said.

O Globo quoted him as saying he believed the changes would already be in place for the 1994 World Cup in the United States.

The newspaper O Estado de Sao Paulo forecast opposition to the idea.

"The possibility of breaking a match into 25-minute quarters is considered a heresy by European sportswriters, nor does it have unanimous support within Fifa and it will have difficulty winning the backing of the British (Soccer) Associations."

Gillespie puts Liverpool on top again

LONDON, March 3, (Reuters): Defender Gary Gillespie returned from injury and made amends for mistakes by his Liverpool teammates to put the club back at the top of the English First Division with a late goal against Millwall today.

But Liverpool were prepared for a short reign. Championship rivals Aston Villa, just one point behind, are playing at Coventry tomorrow and hoped to snatch back the lead.

Liverpool began with confident expectations of easily beating struggling Millwall and extending their unbeaten run to 17 matches.

But things did not go all their own way against the heavily defensive London side.

England striker Peter Beardsley shot wide from a penalty only two minutes into the match. John Barnes hit the bar, and both Welsh international Ian Rush and Scot Steve Nicol had goals disallowed.

It was left to Gillespie to get the result Liverpool needed with just seven minutes to play.

The Scot, playing his first match for three months after a hamstring injury, scored with a header from a Beardsley corner.

Champions Arsenal saw their hopes of retaining the title wither when they suffered their ninth away defeat of the season, 2-0 to London rivals Queen's Park Rangers.

Former England midfielder Ray Wilkins put Rangers ahead

against the run of play in the 56th minute.

The mood turned ugly when Arsenal, knocked out of the English FA Cup by Rangers in the fourth round, appealed in vain for a penalty, saying central defender Alan McDonald had handled the ball.

Two of the visiting players were booked after arguing with referee Roger Milford who was given a police escort off the pitch at the end of the match.

Rangers, beaten only once in 15 games, scored again in the 75th minute when Roy Wegerle drove home the ball from an awkward angle.

Arsenal, who had two more players booked before the match was over, are now 10 points behind Liverpool, and have dropped a place to fourth, level on points with third-placed Nottingham Forest who have a better goal difference.

But the champions still have home matches to come with both the leaders and Aston Villa.

Results	
English Division One	
Charlton	0
Liverpool	1
Manchester U	4
Nottingham	1
QPR	2
Sheff Wed	2
Southampton	2
Tottenham	0
Wimbledon	3
Wolves	2
Bradford	1
Brighton	1
Hull	1
Ipswich	0
Millwall	0
Newcastle	4
Barnsley	1

Plymouth	3
Stoke	0
Swindon	0
Watford	1
West Bromwich	0
Birmingham	4
Blackpool	4
Bristol R	0
Bury	3
Cardiff	0
Derby	0
Huddersfield	0
Leyton Orient	0
Northampton	0
Reading	2
Rotherham	2
Sheff Wed	1
Sheff Utd	1
Southend	2
Swansea	0
Tranmere	4
Walsley	0
Wigan	3
Wolves	0
Wycombe	0
Yeovil	0
York City	0

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World title fight

Britain's Lloyd Honeyghan (left) and United States' Mark Breland at their weigh-in before their World Boxing Association welterweight title fight last night. Honeyghan took the opportunity of the weigh-in to blast Breland for earning his title by fighting a South African. (Reuters wirephoto)